

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 20

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

Thursday, July 21

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, August 7

End of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, October 2

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

Thursday, October 20

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)
Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.
Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)

Monday, July 18

Republican National Convention, Cleveland

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Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016

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Volume #85, Report #136 - Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16th Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick: 'Never Trump' Efforts Fall...

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

Rules Committee: GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."

"Grassroots voices from every state and territory have crafted a set of rules which will keep our party strong at the local, state, and national level, and we honored the spirit of democracy by conducting our Rules Committee meeting in a completely open and transparent fashion," he said.

Schedule: The RNC had not yet released an official schedule of events for convention week in Cleveland as of midday Friday, just two days before the RNC is schedule to kickoff.

But Ohio leaders and others have already announced a slew of ancillary events timed to capitalize on the convention crowd.

The Ohio Republican Party will host daily 8 a.m. breakfasts featuring Treasurer Josh Mandel and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (Monday); U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and Frank Luntz (Tuesday); U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi and House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wednesday); and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (Thursday).

The ORP already announced a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday event at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame to honor Gov. John Kasich.

A sampling of other events during the course of the week includes:

- Sunday - a "Taste of Little Italy" event featuring Attorney General Mike DeWine at 3 p.m. at Tony Brush Park
- Monday - a 3 p.m. campaign event in which Sen. Rob Portman, former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Joni Ernst will address Sen. Portman volunteers at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus
- Tuesday, a 10:15 a.m. reception for media members with Sen. Rob Portman; and 11 a.m. welcome tea hosted by the Ohio Federation of Republican Women at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square featuring U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

A partial list of convention speakers was officially released Thursday, although the time and dates of the speeches have yet to be announced by the RNC.

In contrast, the Democratic National Convention Committee announced Friday the headline speakers for the DNC in Philadelphia later this month. They include First Lady Michelle Obama and Sen. Bernie Sanders July 25, President Bill Clinton July 26, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden July 27, and Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton July 28.

A series of musical acts will perform each day of the RNC at Freedom Plaza, which will also include drinks and food. For a complete list, visit the RNC's website. An evening

concert, featuring a variety of "American Idol" and "The Voice" winners will take place at 11 p.m. Tuesday at Gray's Armory.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC, meanwhile, are organizing their own counter events in Cleveland with a slew of press conferences and conference calls aimed at undercutting the RNC. Former Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Democratic Party will also ramp up their attacks on U.S. Sen. Rob Portman as they seek to link him to Mr. Trump.

Other groups have scheduled their own events to criticize Republicans. The Ohio AFL-CIO is set to "welcome" Republicans to the city during a 2 p.m. Sunday event featuring former Gov. Ted Strickland at the Laborers' Local 310 Hall.

ProgressOhio has created a calendar of counter events that includes a "Daily Show" convention sideshow, League of Women Voters voter registration drives, and daily nonviolence training for protestors.

Bob Bennett: The City of Cleveland granted a secondary street name to the intersection of Ontario Street and Huron Road for the duration of the convention. The intersection will be known as Bob Bennett Way in honor of former ORP chairman.

"More than any one person, Bob Bennett steadfastly sought to bring the Convention to Cleveland," Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said. "We are sad that he is not here to see the world spotlight on Cleveland, but grateful to the Mayor's office for honoring him in this way so that we can acknowledge his contribution to this week."

Tourism: With the RNC expected to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland, TourismOhio is rolling out all the stops to showcase Ohio, according to a press release.

The group is launching a 360 degree "virtual reality experience" during the convention, to capitalize on visitors and showcase various Ohio hotspots.

The experience will be hosted in a 40-passenger bus located outside the Quicken Loans Arena, according to the release, and will "offer a personal Ohio adventure for participants with a wide range of interests." Those not at the event can take part online.

Some of the featured items include Cedar Point, Hocking Hills, parasailing over Lake Erie, and various Cleveland attractions.

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Students largely believe that their colleges and universities would seriously address sexual assault reports and take corrective action against offenders, according to their responses on surveys disseminated by all of the state's public institutions.

The surveys were an integral piece of the Changing Campus Culture initiative, which the Department of Higher Education launched last fall in an effort to encourage best practices in preventing and responding to sexual violence on campuses. (Survey Results)

Chancellor John Carey urged schools to join the voluntary effort and they responded. All of Ohio's public universities and 80% of private institutions participated in the campus climate survey that asked students to give feedback on how they think sexual assault is being handled and whether they know how to file reports.

Michelle Johnston, the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College president who has been the face of the initiative, said she's encouraged by the swell of interest in improving sexual violence policies.

The feedback, she said, will be used to steer the other facets of the \$2-million initiative, which include developing comprehensive response policies, adopting survivor-centered responses, launching awareness campaigns and implementing comprehensive training programs.

"With 100% of our public colleges and universities completing a common survey of our students, we have a clearer picture of where we are, collectively and as unique institutions," she said in a statement. "Using this data, we will thoroughly analyze where we are now and will chart a course for where we want to be, in relation to positive and safe environments on our campuses."

Students who responded to the survey agreed, on average, that the university would take sexual assault reports seriously and would support those making the reports. The average respondent also said the university would take corrective action against offenders and would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.

However, students largely disagreed or were neutral with a survey statement that sexual violence is not a problem on their campuses and responses were mixed on a question of understanding institution policies for addressing complaints.

Less than one-third of students reported they don't know the contact information to get on-campus support for sexual violence despite about 13% of them saying they knew women who had been assaulted on campus.

"As I have shared many times before, numbers don't lie, and in the case of sexual violence on our campuses in Ohio, the numbers tell a story that needs a better ending," Ms. Johnston said of why the initiative was launched in October.

In addition to the aggregate data compiled by ODHE, the agency said campuses also administered more comprehensive surveys that will inform policies specific to individual institutions. All public institutions and 88% of private colleges and universities completed those surveys.

Ohio is one of few states in the country that has collected such data, according to ODHE. Much of the work to complete the surveys was done with the help of grants that were funded with a portion of the \$2 million allocated to the initiative in the biennium budget (HB 64).

The grants are also to be used to support putting best practices in place. The overall budget funding has paid for, among other things, webinars and summits to keep institutions engaged in the initiative and collaborating with one another.

"It's exciting to see Ohio dedicating state resources to collect prevalence data, support survivors and prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and partnering with the coalition and rape crisis centers," said Monika Johnson Hostler, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"It is through this strategic, long-term investment and the development of partnerships between campuses and community-based programs that we will see long-term positive change for students."

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

The sponsor of public sector right-to-work legislation defends introducing the controversial measure while acknowledging it is likely dead-on-arrival.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said legislation (HB 583) that would remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization is good policy that will likely not be well-received in the General Assembly.

"It's something my constituents have been demanding for a long time," he said in an interview. "I think it's good for Ohio and hopefully it will be able to move forward."

But We Are Ohio, which was formed in opposition to similar legislation designed to curtail the collective bargaining power of public sector unions, slammed the proposal, saying that workers in state with similar laws make less money and are more prone to on-the-job injuries.

"We believe right-to-work is wrong for Ohio, for working people, for all of us," spokesman Dennis Willard said in an interview.

"There is no support from working people in this state for this extreme idea."

Asked about the likelihood of the bill becoming law, Rep. Becker said he has "no reason to be optimistic."

"I have no feedback one way or the other, but based on the public comments that the governor has made and based on my feelings of what's going on in the Senate or where they might be, I'm not optimistic," he said.

Gov. John Kasich has said repeatedly that right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda in the wake of the public rebuke over similar legislation (SB5, 129th General Assembly) that was struck down by the state's voters in a labor-backed referendum.

John Fourtney, spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus, said the measure has yet to be vetted by members. However, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has spoken favorably of eliminating a requirement for union shop employees to pay union dues (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2013), but has said the support is not there among his members. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 3, 2013)

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), also said the bill will be discussed further among caucus members in the fall.

The fight over Senate Bill 5 galvanized the labor movement, and Rep. Becker acknowledged that the introduction of similar legislation could provide good political fodder for Democrats in an election year.

"I could see that being a drawback. It just gives the Democrats another talking point and a fundraising letter to send out," he said.

However, he said his measure is different from Senate Bill 5 in that it does not address collective bargaining benefits.

"It is simply an opt-out for public sector employees," he said.

Democrats and labor groups have derided right-to-work legislation for allowing those who opt out of paying union dues to still receive the benefits from negotiated terms of contracts. But Rep. Becker said those who opt-out under his legislation would no longer be protected by unions.

"If they run into some kind of trouble with management, they will not be able to look to the union," he said, adding that it is up to management to decide how to deal with the wages and benefits of non-union employees.

Critics have also said that right-to-work legislation is designed to weaken unions both financially and politically. Rep. Becker, however, also downplayed that critique.

"I wouldn't expect a mass exodus from unions if this were to be signed into law," he said. "If there were a significant exit, it would tell me that there's a problem with the unions. If the only way they can maintain their union through a captive audience then they need to be looking in the mirror."

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

A spokesman for the state's largest online charter school is defending the school's refusal to hand over student log-in data requested by the Department of Education.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is not breaking any laws by refusing the data that's at the center of a lawsuit alleging ODE will misuse that information to determine per-pupil funding, school spokesman Neil Clark said.

A Franklin County judge earlier this week denied ECOT's request for a temporary restraining order to stop ODE from moving forward with an audit until after the court rules how student attendance should be used to inform payment totals.

ODE on Monday moved forward with the attendance review, but an email from the agency's attorney to ECOT revealed that the school was refusing to turn over the log-in and log-out information for students.

The agency's attorney Douglas Cole requested access to the documents be immediately provided, but Mr. Clark said that won't be happening.

"We're saying we're not doing anything unless the court tells us to," he said in an interview.

ECOT is interpreting the judge's decision differently than ODE, he said. While it may have allowed the audit to move forward, there is no specification that the review can occur in a way that conflicts with a contract between the school and ODE.

The school's lawsuit argues that ODE's decision to not provide funding for students who weren't logging in at least five hours per day is out of line with an agreement that has been in place for previous audits. That contractual agreement states that the school must offer up to 920 hours of learning opportunities - not that students must partake, Mr. Clark said.

"It's just not about did you show up today, it's far more detailed than that; it's how did you get to that 920?" he said.

ODE, meanwhile, is contending that online schools are required by state law to make daily student participation records accessible, regardless of how that information is being used. Mr. Evans said in his email a statute specifying that mandate has been in place since February.

The e-school's governing board was expected to meet Friday - mostly in executive session - to discuss the lawsuit and next steps.

Accreditation: Antioch College this week announced it has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The independent college had spent the last two years pursuing accreditation after reopening in 2011. Originally founded in 1850, it closed in 2008 amid financial troubles and leaders have since been focused on building the historic institution back up.

President Tom Manley said in a video posted to YouTube that the university can now focus its attention on continuing to build a financial foundation and recruit students.

"This great result comes from the hard work of our faculty, our staff, students, our alumni who have been so incredibly supportive and the leadership of our board of trustees," he said. "It is a ringing endorsement of the quality and strength of the education that Antioch college can now offer, and it is a vote of confidence in our ability to offer than education for years to come. "

The commission's decision is retroactive, meaning the recent graduates in the class of 2016 will receive diplomas from an accredited institution, Antioch reported.

Standards Revisions: Rep. Jack Cera is urging educators and the public to provide feedback on proposed revisions to English and math standards.

The Bellaire Democrat said his constituents have shared frustration with the current common core standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, and now is the time to recommend changes.

Through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, ODE is accepting public comments on the proposed revisions that were drafted in response to the work of a task force and an earlier public survey.

"I wanted to take the time to share this opportunity with the people of the 96th District because I have received many questions from teachers, parents and administrators about the education department's new revisions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity for parents to get involved in the process and voice their questions, comments and concerns with those who create these standards directly."

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

The Ohio Democratic Party has thrown its weight behind an effort to ensure that unregistered voters have a small window prior to the presidential election to register and cast a ballot on the same day.

In a brief filed with U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals, the party asks the court to uphold a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

"Jon Husted and Mike DeWine continue to waste time and money in court, ignoring the Constitution and clear precedent while attempting to make it harder to vote," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement.

"In their appeal, Husted and DeWine blatantly disregard the fact that eliminating an additional week of early voting and same-day registration disproportionately impacted African-American voters. The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

In a separate decision, Judge Watson denied a request to stay the ruling for the November presidential election while the decision is appealed.

ODP is now accusing Secretary of State Jon Husted of failing to heed the ruling by not providing accurate information for voters about the start of early voting on his office's website.

"Jon Husted has a long history of blatantly ignoring court decisions that have rebuked his attacks on Ohioans' voting rights, and his refusal, once again, to provide accurate information about early voting is plainly designed to mislead Ohioans about their voting rights," Mr. Pepper said.

"If he won't relent and update the misleading information his office is providing, we will take action to ensure he follows the court order restoring 'Golden Week.' The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

Husted spokesman Josh Eck said the website won't be changed while the case is under appeal.

"The ruling was stayed for the upcoming August Special Election and is currently on appeal ahead of the November election. It would be irresponsible for the Secretary to begin advertising changes that may very well have to undergo further changes before the General Election, as they did in 2012," he said.

"Secretary Husted is committed to making sure all voters know the rules and can participate and we welcome others to join us in pursuing clarity over chaos."

Eminent Domain: The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law has asked the Wood County Common Pleas Court to dismiss more than a dozen eminent domain cases filed by a Texas pipeline company.

The group said in a court filing that Kinder Morgan's eminent domain action against 15 families in the Bowling Green area violates Ohio's constitution because the project for which it is seeking the land is not a "public necessity."

The land would be used for the "Utopia Pipeline," a private ethane pipeline running underground to a Canadian plastics factory.

"Imagine that a private sector lawyer desired to get to the Wood County Court of Common Pleas faster. Could he forcibly appropriate others' private land along the route, from his front door step to the court's parking lot to build a personal road, with no on-ramps or exits, and twenty foot walls on either side, just to represent one very wealthy client who anticipated routinely using his services?" the filing reads.

"If the answer is 'no,' then it must be here as well. And it is 'no,' because no such road would be a public use, even if the lawyer appealed to the public interest in 'justice' and 'market demand for lawyers.'"

Maurice Thompson, the group's executive director, said in a statement the proposed eminent domain action is "redistribution of wealth of the worst sort."

"The abuse along the Utopia Pipeline is a prime example of what can happen when legislators attempt to auction off Ohioans' property rights to the highest bidder," he said. "Ultimately, the Ohio Constitution prevents this abuse, and we will prevail in court. But statutes inviting this sort of behavior should be amended or repealed."

Honor: A long-time employee of the Ohio Judicial College has been nationally recognized for his work, the high court reported.

Kristopher Steele, an education program manager, received the 2016 Perkins Award from the National Association for Court Management

"It's because of employees like Kristopher that the Supreme Court has an outstanding reputation nationally," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement. "I have received multiple compliments about the Judicial College programs and our staff from my colleagues when attending national meetings."

"I am honored to win this award and will accept it on behalf of all the other dedicated personnel working behind the scenes at courts to help improve services to their communities," Mr. Steele said.

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday announced that 29 rape crisis centers across the state will receive more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.

"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," AG DeWine said. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

The following 28 agencies will all receive \$45,803:

- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County
- Alive, Inc., Steubenville
- Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, Ashland
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Stark County
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Tuscarawas County
- Compass Family and Community Services, Youngstown
- Council on Domestic Violence/Open Arms, Findlay
- Crime Victim Services, Lima
- Edna Brooks Foundation/My Sister's Place, Athens
- Erie County Prosecutor
- Eve, Inc., Marietta
- Haven of Hope, Cambridge
- Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Lake County Prosecutor
- New Directions, Mt. Vernon
- OneEighty, Wayne County

- Project Woman, Springfield
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
- The Cocoon, Bowling Green
- The Domestic Violence Shelter, Mansfield
- The Nord Center, Lorain
- Townhall II, Kent
- Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville
- Women Helping Women, Cincinnati
- YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo

Another \$142,500 will be distributed to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

BWC: As the Bureau of Workers' Compensation transitions to prospective billing, it is asking private employers to report their actual payroll for the policy year ended June 30 and to reconcile any differences in premium paid prior to the closure of the "True-up" window on Aug. 15.

Employers will be removed from their current rating plan or discount program if it BWC does not receive a payroll true-up by the due date. Outstanding payroll true-ups will render the employer ineligible for participation in future rating plans or discount programs until all outstanding payroll true-ups are complete.

"This step is an important part of BWC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations and provide better service to Ohio's employers," BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "It's also necessary for BWC to accurately calculate an employer's premium and for employers to maintain their participation in current rating plan or discount programs."

The transition, according to BWC, has allowed it to reduce base rates and offer employers more flexible payment options and the ability to better forecast their costs.

True-ups can be completed online and if done through the web qualifies eligible employers for a 1% premium rebate, up to a \$2,000 maximum.

The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced 8,480 new state business filings in June. The figure represents an increase over the same period on 2015, when 8,151 entities were formed.

June was again a record setting month for business filing; 4,300 more entities have filed so far in 2016 than at the same point in 2015.

New filings increased 21.8% from 2010-2015.

Department of Natural Resources: A total of 2,192 permits have been issued for drilling on the Utica Shale as of July 9, according to data from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources.

A total of 1,756 wells have been drilled, and 1,334 wells are in production, according to the ODNR.

The department also announced that Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor attended the opening ceremonies for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship at the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo.

PUCO: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is remind consumers that that they may be eligible for budget billing.

The program, offered by Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas distribution companies, allows consumers to avoid spikes in billion in the summer and winter months.

General Assembly: Legislative staff and members of the Senate collected more than 33,000 pounds of canned food for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The internal food drive also generated \$3,000 in donations, which will provide 39,500 meals to local residents.

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs, Ryan

Ohio's senators this week applauded the confirmation of Carole Rendon as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) recommended Ms. Rendon, a former first assistant U.S. attorney, for the post last month.

"No one is more qualified to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District than Carole Rendon," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "Now that she is confirmed she can continue her work on behalf of Ohioans."

Sen. Portman said, "Carole Rendon is a proud Ohioan, an accomplished lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. She has already served Ohio with distinction for seven years, and I'm pleased that she will continue as U.S. Attorney for Northern Ohio. I am grateful to my colleagues for making the right decision and confirming her nomination."

Border: Sen. Brown urged customs and border protection to launch an investigation into produce made using child and forced labor.

Joining with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), he wrote to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske decrying a loophole that allows some of those products into the country if there is not a sufficient supply.

"We urge you to continue that dialogue with regular meetings between NGOs, as well as other stakeholders, and CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the State Department, and the Department of Labor and a meeting in the very near term to discuss issues related to regulations. Increased communication will lead to more successful petitions and better enforcement against forced labor imports," the senators wrote.

Funding: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded several instances of new funding awarded to her district this week.

First she welcomed news of a \$700 million retooling of Toledo's Jeep North Assembly Plant.

The project, which will equip the plant for production of the next generation of Jeep Wrangler, was announced this week by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and promises 700 new jobs.

"This is almost beyond belief, given where we were eight short years ago," Rep. Kaptur said. "For seventy-five years Toledans have manufactured Wranglers. FCA's investment today will ensure this legacy remains for years to come."

The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will also receive \$22.1 million in federal funds for improvements including safety upgrades and new snow removal equipment.

Lastly, Rep. Kaptur announced the award of a \$3.1 million grant to the Lorain Fire Department and the city of Lorain aimed at addressing a staffing crisis.

The funds, from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, aim to fix the fallout of the recent layoffs of 22 members of the city's fire department.

"This is obviously great news," Rep. Kaptur said. "Credit should go to the Lorain firefighters, who have actively organized in recent weeks and made their case effectively and persuasively, and to Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer and Lorain Fire Chief Tom Brown. Their diligence in helping to find a solution brought about this two-year solution to an immediate problem."

Zika: U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs and colleagues urged President Barack Obama to expand protections against the Zika virus. The Obama Administration has opposed a resolution that would permit mosquito control programs to implement control plans without duplicative permits, Rep. Gibbs said.

"I want to know why it is acceptable for Puerto Rico to increase their defense against Zika, but not the rest of the United States?" Rep. Gibbs asked in a statement. "All Americans should be protected against the spread of Zika and I encourage the president to change his mind and allow the increased use of live-saving pesticides and give pregnant women safety from this terrible illness. If the President ends his opposition to the Conference report, Congress can take swift action to protect those most vulnerable to Zika."

An amendment on Zika from U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles), meanwhile, failed with a 20-29 committee vote. It would have stricken a funding cap of \$461 million on bilateral family planning and created a funding floor of \$585 million to administer anti-Zika programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that House Republicans rejected this amendment and have decided to turn their back on thousands of men and women struggling through this crisis," Rep. Ryan said.

Abortions: Rep. Gibbs applauded the House passage of legislation aimed at protecting health care professionals who refuse to participate in providing abortions.

The lawmaker supported the bill, saying it protects the religious freedom of those professionals.

"The House's vote today gives those willing to exercise their beliefs the option of using the court system if their employment is in jeopardy, instead of being at the mercy of a government bureaucracy," he said. "It is critical that we not only protect the unborn, but protect those whose livelihoods may be at stake for providing that protection."

Trade: An amendment from Rep. Ryan that would require an impact analysis on free trade agreements on wages and the demand for educator workers passed a House committee this week by voice vote.

The amendment is to a measure that would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit a report on the impact of such agreements on the American workforce.

"All that you need to do is look at the shuttered factories and shattered communities across Ohio to see the devastating affect free trade agreements have had across our country," he said. "I am proud that my amendment passed and we will soon be able to know the true cost of these deals to our nation," Mr. Ryan said.

Israel: Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) released a bipartisan report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations examining government grants to OneVoice, which is a non-governmental organization in Israel and Palestine.

The report examines the nearly \$350,000 in grants received from the State Department to foster peace between the two countries. The report determined the NGO complied with the department's terms but shortly after the terms expired used the funds to support a political campaign.

"The State Department ignored warnings signs and funded a politically active group in a politically sensitive environment with inadequate safeguards," Sen. Portman said. "It is completely unacceptable that U.S. taxpayer dollars were used to build a political campaign infrastructure that was deployed - immediately after the grant ended - against the leader of our closest ally in the Middle East. American resources should be used to help our allies in the region, not undermine them."

SNAP: Rep. Ryan this week sought to push for increased digital access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"If we continue on our current trajectory, we will have an adult obesity rate of 60% within 15 years," he said. "In a country, where 23.5 million people live in food deserts, we cannot allow the status quo to continue and must find new ways for all Americans to have access to fresh, healthy food."

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Gongwer News Service's planned coverage of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next week will include regular updates to the website during the day.

Significant breaking news will be distributed through email alerts but subscribers can check the website throughout each day of the convention for updates focusing on activities of the Ohio delegation and other events.

Subscribers may also follow reporter Mikel Livingston and Gongwer on Twitter for links to those updates on our website. Mike's account is @mikellivingston and the main account is @gongwer.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-023, Requested by Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx.
SYLLABUS:

1. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by Violet Township may provide medical services in nonemergency situations pursuant to R.C. 4765.361, so long as the medical services are performed under the direction of the emergency medical technician's medical director or cooperating physician advisory

board, are within the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician, and do not conflict with the emergency medical services described in R.C. 4765.37, R.C. 4765.38, R.C. 4765.39, and the rules adopted by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

2. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township is immune from civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the provision of medical services in a nonemergency situation unless the services are provided in a manner that constitutes wanton or willful misconduct, the services are manifestly outside the scope of the emergency medical technician's employment, or the services are performed with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.
3. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township may not provide medical services on a routine, day-to-day basis outside the boundaries of the township when revenue from a township tax levy pays the emergency medical technician's compensation, unless the township has entered into a contract with another political subdivision pursuant to R.C. 9.60 or R.C. 505.44, or the township provides the medical services to the territory of another township or municipal corporation as a member of a joint fire district pursuant to R.C. 505.371, a fire and ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.375, or a joint ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.71.
4. A board of township trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of medical services that are provided by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township in nonemergency situations and may collect those charges from a private hospital system that agrees to pay those charges on behalf of the recipient of the medical services.
5. A board of township trustees may contract with a private hospital system to provide medical services in nonemergency situations by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township to patients of the hospital who are residents and nonresidents of the township, so long as the private hospital system is a nonprofit corporation and the medical services are performed within the territory of the township.
6. A contract between the Violet Township Board of Trustees and a private hospital system for the provision of medical services in nonemergency situations may provide that the private hospital system will pay the township a sum of money for each visit performed by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic pursuant to the contract and that emergency medical technicians will provide medical services in nonemergency situations during the emergency medical technicians' regular work hours.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 20

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

Thursday, July 21

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, August 7

End of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, October 2

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

Thursday, October 20

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

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Click the # after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)

Monday, July 18

Republican National Convention, Cleveland

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Sent: Monday, August 1, 2016 5:39 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra
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Ohio Report for Monday, August 1, 2016

Following JCARR Discussion, Dietitians, ODA To Continue Talks On Senior Food Programs

State Still Seeking Lethal Drugs With Next Execution Set For January; Lawmakers Look To Alternatives

Trump, Clinton At Odds During Columbus Campaign Stops

GOP Lawmakers Tout Model Suicide Prevention Legislation, Contemplate Charter School Industry Structures At ALEC Event

Husted Urging Changes In Special Election Laws

LPO Plans Appeal After Latest Setback In Ballot Access Case

Ethics Commission: Former Columbus Council Members Should Pay For Attendance At 2014 Game

Education Notes: ODE Seeking Career-Focused Education Grant; Chancellor Carey Plans UA Visit; OSU Police Department Recognized

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #147 -- Monday, August 1, 2016

Following JCARR Discussion, Dietitians, ODA To Continue Talks On Senior Food Programs

Dietitians argued Monday that current and pending administrative rules could impair nutrient adequacy and lack adequate food safety guidelines for senior citizens.

Representatives of the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics told the Joint Committee on Agency Rule and Review their concerns have not been completely addressed by rule changes put forth by the Department of Aging. (Agenda)

At the same time, they thanked the department for taking their feedback into account, even if all their proposed changes were not adopted during the rulemaking process.

"We're not going to let this go," OAND State Policy Representative Pat McKnight said. "We'll meet with the department and go over these (issues) but we just wanted to make you all aware this issue is not solved."

In the end, JCARR members did not act on the rule, which allows it to proceed toward implementation.

Following a "productive" meeting with the department last week, interested parties are next scheduled to meet in six months to continue the discussion, Ms. McKnight said. But at the urging of Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City), ODA Policy Development Manager Tom Simmons said the department would be agreeable to moving that meeting up to take place within two months.

The testimony came in response to a rule package including 19 proposed rules and 18 other rules to be rescinded pertaining to nutrition programs under the Older Americans Act. The rules would pertain to AAA providers, which include local area aging agencies.

Specifically, the groups are concerned with Rule 173-4-5 and Rule 173-4-5.2, which establish general requirements for nutrition projects and home-delivered meal projects respectively.

Part of the concern centers on the one-third federal dietary reference intake for meals, which requires a minimum of one-third of one's meals provided through OAA funding meet nutritional requirements. Ms. McKnight said the new rule along with existing federal law does not provide enough information to ensure the one-third requirement is met. She said it also prohibits the use of leader nutrients, which dietitians had formerly used as a workaround to meet those requirements.

"It's not that the dietitian wouldn't want to do it," she said of compliance. "There is no way he or she could do it because the data's simply not available."

Ms. McKnight also contended that the new rules include no standards for non-therapeutic menus - healthy diets not tailored to a specific patient. More providers, she said, are using such menus to cut down on their clients' intake of carbs or sodium. And she questioned the department's claim that it has no ability to develop or enforce food-safety standards for such providers.

Mr. Simmons said the department lacks jurisdiction in modifying the federal OAA. But he said the department is committed to having an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders.

"The number one goal of our entire project is to remove the overbearing regulation within these rules and with that make it easier to do business," Mr. Simmons said.

OAND State Regulatory Specialist Kay Mavko said the group plans to continue to engage the department and lawmakers on these issues.

"We are committed to working on this," Ms. Mavko said. "We don't want to let it go. We realize the department is limited in what it has the authority to do and what the rulemaking process allows it to do, but we still have some concerns."

State Still Seeking Lethal Drugs With Next Execution Set For January; Lawmakers Look To Alternatives

Ohio's next scheduled execution is now less than six months away, yet the state hasn't been able to obtain at least one drug typically used in the lethal injection process since 2013.

The state is still trying to acquire drugs used to carry out executions, according to JoEllen Smith, a spokeswoman for the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

"DRC continues to seek all legal means to obtain the drugs necessary to carry out court ordered executions," she said. "This process has included multiple options."

Without the drugs necessary, the state could be forced to again delay the execution of Ronald Phillips, who was convicted of the 1993 murder of a 3-year-old girl. He is one of 26 people scheduled to be executed by the state in the coming years.

Mr. Phillips has had several execution dates, the most recent of which was Jan. 21, 2016. He had a 2014 execution date that was delayed after the botched execution of Dennis McGuire, who gasped for air at times over a 25-minute process carried out for the first time in Ohio with a two-drug cocktail.

That concoction - a mixture of midazolam, a sedative, and hydromorphone, a narcotic painkiller - was used for the first time because in the fall of 2013 European

pharmaceutical companies blocked the sale of pentobarbital, which was previously used in the lethal injection process.

In the wake of Mr. McGuire's execution - which the state said caused no pain - a federal judge in May 2014 issued a moratorium on the death penalty in Ohio, which was later extended until Jan 15, 2015.

Shortly before the moratorium expired, the state announced that it would abandon the use of the two-drug mixture and instead use thiopental sodium, which was utilized in executions from 1999 to 2011.

However, in October, the state announced that it was again delaying all executions, with 2017 as the earliest date. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 20, 2015)

Gov. John Kasich also signed legislation (HB663, 130th General Assembly) in December 2014 to shield the identities of execution-drug makers.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) laid blame for the state's inability to secure the drugs necessary to carry out an execution at the feet of the administration of President Barack Obama.

"The Obama administration chooses not to enforce marijuana laws, which then lead to states legalizing medical marijuana," he said. "Strangely enough they go beyond what they are authorized to do relative to execution drugs."

Nonetheless, he expressed hope that once a new administration takes office on Jan. 20, it will make it easier to secure drugs necessary to carry out executions.

Current state law allows for executions to be carried out only through lethal injection. However, one panel led by Sen. Coley is exploring alternate forms of execution.

The Joint Legislative Study Committee on Victims' Rights in March heard testimony from Matt Kanai, general counsel for the law enforcement division in the attorney general's office, on ways other states are dealing with the lack of lethal injection drugs. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 10, 2016)

Sen. Coley said he is intrigued by nitrogen hypoxia as a form of execution, which Oklahoma has recently added as an option to carry out the death penalty.

He said the death would be similar to that caused by a decompressed plane cabin and added he believes it would not be deemed cruel or unusual by the courts. However, he said he would prefer to let the issue work its way through the justice system, which could take two to four years, before moving forward with it as a form of execution in Ohio.

The abolishment of the death penalty, though, is not on the table for Sen. Coley.

"The one great thing about the death penalty is there is zero recidivism," he said. "There are truly evil people in this world and it's our duty to eradicate them from the face of the planet. The death penalty has been an effective tool to that end."

However, Abe Bonowitz, communications director of Ohioans to Stop Executions, said the state should follow the lead of others and abolish the death penalty.

"We have a system that is blatantly unfair and has all kinds of issues with it," he said.

"The trends with the death penalty are away from it across the country and in Ohio fewer counties are using it," he added.

As for Mr. Phillips' scheduled execution, Sen. Coley said he's been led to believe that it can still be carried out.

"From everything that I've heard from the director, right now they believe it can be," he said. "They still have time."

Trump, Clinton At Odds During Columbus Campaign Stops

Donald Trump began his Columbus appearance Monday by blasting a local fire marshal for turning away "thousands" of his supporters for political reasons.

Before taking the stage at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Mr. Trump made a brief surprise appearance to media gathered outside the room, according to various reports.

There he claimed there were thousands of people outside until they were turned away "for political reasons" by the fire marshal. Several media reports placed the number closer to hundreds.

"So we have a thousand people in there," Mr. Trump said, according to video. "The fire marshal said he's not allowed to allow any more, even though the building holds many thousands of people, so I just want to tell you that."

The perceived slight was the first thing Mr. Trump mentioned upon taking the mic. From there, he segued into terrorism, the border, trade, and his desire to see a ballroom constructed at the White House.

His appearance came one day after Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and her VP pick Sen. Tim Kaine appeared in Columbus, where Ms. Clinton labeled Mr. Trump "a serious threat to our democracy."

With the event billed as a town hall, Mr. Trump fielded three questions on topics including healthcare, regulation on small businesses, and the heroin epidemic.

He pinned Ohio's job loss on President Bill Clinton, saying that the state lost one in three manufacturing jobs since the signing of NAFTA, and accused Ms. Clinton of being beholden to large donors.

"We are going to turn this state into a manufacturing behemoth," he said. "We are going to bring your jobs back, we're going to bring your companies back."

Between his usual attacks on illegal immigrants and the media, he said he's raised \$35.8 million in the last month from more than 500,000 donors and added that if he'd had two more days to campaign for the primary he - and not Gov. John Kasich - would have won the Buckeye State, which he lost by 11 points. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 15, 2016)

Mr. Trump did not mention his criticism of a Muslim couple - Khizr and Ghazala Khan - which GOP leaders have rebuked in recent days. Ohio veterans, in a Monday morning conference call organized by the Clinton campaign, called upon Mr. Trump to apologize for those attacks.

The Khans criticized the businessman during a speech at the Democratic National Convention, while describing the death of their son, a U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq. Mr. Trump spent days afterward blasting the couple. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 29, 2016)

As attacks continue to volley between Mr. Trump and the Khans, Republican leaders - including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell - sought to distance themselves from Mr. Trump's remarks. GOP VP candidate Mike Pence, meanwhile, issued a statement saying he and Mr. Trump believe the Khans and their son "should be cherished by every American."

"Donald Trump does not understand the experience of our military families or our veterans," said former Democratic lawmaker and Air Force veteran Connie Pillich. "He tries to portray himself as strong and brash, but there is nothing strong or powerful about insulting the family of a fallen soldier."

Air Force Reserve member Rep. John Boccieri (D-Alliance) said "words do matter... and Donald Trump just doesn't get it."

"It's very clear from his remarks about John McCain and now Capt. Khan that he doesn't understand the type of sacrifices the men and women in uniform make for our country," he said. "The suffering and pain and struggle that these families go through on a daily basis are just unspeakable and to make light of it, to now attack this family I think is very indicative of the type of presidency he will run."

Republicans have also steered clear of the remarks, with Gov. John Kasich tweeting in his most recent disagreement with Mr. Trump: "There's only one way to talk about Gold Star parents: With honor and respect. Capt. Khan is a hero. Together we should pray for his family."

Ms. Clinton has likewise criticized the businessman for those attacks. During her Columbus appearance, she told the crowd "it's going to be up to all of us to repudiate" such attacks.

Ms. Clinton's latest Columbus appearance marked the culmination of her three-day "Stronger Together" bus tour of Pennsylvania and Ohio. There Ms. Clinton questioned Mr. Trump's business acumen and outlined her plan to invest in jobs during her first 100 days in office.

She pushed for more support for small businesses and asked rhetorically what would have happened if her father, who made draperies, had fulfilled his contractual obligations only for someone like Mr. Trump to refuse to pay for the product.

"To person after person and business after business, Donald Trump said, 'I don't care,'" Ms. Clinton said. "It's not because he couldn't pay them. He wouldn't pay them. He drove businesses into bankruptcy in addition to taking bankruptcy himself six times. My friends, that's not how we do business in America."

"He makes dress shirts in China, not Brooklyn, New York," she continued. "He makes furniture in Turkey, not Cleveland, Ohio. He makes barware in Slovenia, not Jackson, Ohio. And he goes around saying he wants to put America first and American workers first."

The campaign continues seizing upon news from recent days that Mr. Trump recently applied for dozens of H-2B visas to fill staff positions at his Palm Beach Mar-a-Lago resort and his Jupiter, Fla., golf club with foreign workers.

"Shame on you, Donald Trump," Ms. Clinton said. "Let's cut through all the hype and rhetoric and understand that we're dealing with somebody who has a history of stiffing people, making things somewhere else besides America, and whenever possible, hiring foreign workers."

Bump: Ms. Clinton appears to have received a polling boost following the Democratic National Convention last week. A CBS News July 29-31 poll showed her leading Mr. Trump nationally 47-41%.

The pair were virtually tied in the same poll last week following the Republican National Convention. When including Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson, Ms. Clinton leads Mr. Trump 43-38%, followed by Mr. Johnson at 10%.

Mr. Trump had previously seen a post-RNC bump in some polls conducted last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2016)

Endorsement: The Ohio Right to Life PAC on Monday announced its endorsement of Mr. Trump and a handful of candidates for other offices.

"Our mission is to protect the sanctity of human life, and right now there is no ticket more threatening to that mission than that of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine," ORTL President Mike Gonidakis said. "Many times over, Mr. Trump has committed himself to appointing pro-life Supreme Court Justices, signing the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and protecting religious liberty."

Mr. Trump has faced questioned on his views on abortion. In 1999, he said he was "very pro-choice," although he said his opinion has since "evolved." Currently anti-abortion, he caught flack earlier this year, even from anti-abortion groups, for suggesting in an MSNBC interview "there has to be some form of punishment" for women who obtain an abortion. He later walked back that comment.

GOP Lawmakers Tout Model Suicide Prevention Legislation, Contemplate Charter School Industry Structures At ALEC Event

Legislation providing suicide prevention tools to colleges and universities that originated in the Ohio House is on course to be copied by other states.

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) last week attended the American Legislative Exchange Council's annual meeting to promote her resolution that the organization has approved as model legislation.

The controversial annual ALEC meeting typically draws conservative lawmakers to draft and consider bills that are oftentimes backed by the private sector.

Ohio lawmakers who attended the event include Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina), Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.), Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton), Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina), Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville), Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati).

While some question the group's motives for including businesses in the bill-writing process, Rep. Anielski said the three-day meeting allows her to collaborate with lawmakers across the country to view issues differently.

ALEC was also beneficial in helping her promote legislation (HB 28) that was enacted last summer in Ohio, she said. It provides colleges and universities with free access to suicide prevention programs as well as related materials and tools that were already available to K-12 schools.

"I wanted to make sure that the resources were out there because there are some universities that have already met all the requirements because they're already doing this, but I wanted to bring up the people that needed help and I didn't want them to start from scratch so now they have options," Rep. Anielski said in an interview.

The bill also required institutions to take part in a five-part program that includes crisis intervention access, mental health program access, multimedia applications, a student communication plan and more.

The ALEC-approved version of the legislation is a resolution urging colleges to take part in the programs rather than requiring it, Rep. Anielski said.

"Basically it's almost like a committee process and you have to go and sell it and market it and basically convince your colleagues from around the nation that this is a good idea," she said of ALEC. "I presented it first as a bill in December and they asked me to come back and present it as a resolution because they didn't want schools to be mandated to do that."

West Virginia has already enacted legislation that mirrors Ohio's bill, while four other states have used portions of it, Rep. Anielski said. She's hoping those numbers go up now that the concept has ALEC backing.

She was joined in education-related sessions by Rep. Brenner, who said he spent a portion of the annual meeting involved in brainstorming on charter schools.

The discussions, which included presentations from school choice and charter school leaders from across the country, allowed participants to begin building a framework for those states that need to improve their sectors or are looking to establish one, he said in an interview.

Holding dropout recovery and prevention schools accountable in ways other than test scores that address the makeup of those schools was also a topic of conversation.

"Basically, the biggest thing I don't think (people) get about ALEC is it's not an evil thing. It just like a big interested party meeting," Rep. Brenner said of his experience, referring to criticism of the group.

"We're just discussing basic public policy and what would be good model legislation written basically by legislators and we're dealing with the same organizations back in our Statehouse," he added.

Center for Media and Democracy, the group behind a website called ALEC Exposed, doesn't buy that, though. It argues on its website that the ALEC meetings are where "global corporations and state politicians vote behind closed doors to try to rewrite state laws that govern your rights."

Rep. Brenner said he'd like to see the event televised to provide transparency and educate people about the issues lawmakers - whose meeting expenses are covered by the party - are addressing.

Held in Indianapolis, the event agenda included breakout sessions as well as a speakers list that featured Trump running mate Gov. Mike Pence.

Husted Urging Changes in Special Election Laws

Absentee voting has started in a special Democratic primary for the Eighth Congressional District, although Secretary of State Jon Husted is pushing lawmakers to change the law that is requiring the election to take place.

The special primary is designed to name a Democratic candidate to replace Corey Foister on the ballot in November. Mr. Foister withdrew 107 days before the November election and will be replaced on the ballot by Steve Fought.

State law requires a special election to be held if a congressional candidate withdraws from the race with more than 90 days to go before the general election, according to Mr. Husted's office. After the 90th day before the election, there's a window allowed by state law in which the party could appoint a candidate without a special election.

In a statement, Secretary Husted said he will urge the General Assembly to make changes to Ohio law to avoid having conduct a special primary election in which only one candidate is running in the future.

"It is a waste of time and tax dollars to hold a special election when only one candidate is running," Secretary Husted said. "I hope the legislature will change the law to avoid this problem in the future."

Absentee voting in the special primary for overseas and military voters started Saturday, according to the Secretary of State's office.

Mr. Fought, a former press secretary for U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), lives in Toledo but plans to move to Butler County to run for the seat, according to a report from the *Toledo Blade*.

Mr. Fought will face U.S. Rep. Warren Davidson (R-Troy), who won the seat formerly held by House Speaker John Boehner in a special election in June (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016). Green Party candidate James J. Condit Jr. is also running for the seat.

LPO Plans Appeal After Latest Setback in Ballot Access Case

The Libertarian Party of Ohio said Monday it will appeal a federal appeals court's rejection of the group's claims it was unfairly kept off the state ballot in the 2014 election.

The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday affirmed the May decision by a district court in favor of Secretary of State Jon Husted.

In its appeal to the Sixth Circuit, the LPO claimed state actors selectively enforced the law against Libertarian Party candidates and that state law violated the equal protection

clause of the 14th Amendment by requiring new minor parties to nominate candidates by petition, rather than primary elections.

Circuit Judge Karen Nelson Moore wrote in the decision that the LPO failed to demonstrate the Secretary of State's Office worked with the Ohio Republican Party in a conspiracy to keep the Libertarians off the ballot in 2014. Judge Moore said the district court was correct in granting summary judgment on the selective enforcement claim.

As to the claim of equal rights violations, the court ruled the state's interest in requiring new minor parties to demonstrate a base of support outweighed the burden placed on the LPO by having to nominate candidates by petition, instead of by primary election.

Mark Brown, the LPO's lead attorney, said in a statement that the party will appeal the decision, saying voters should have the ability to vote for their presidential ticket of former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson and former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld.

"We are immediately appealing the Sixth Circuit's decision to the United States Supreme Court," he said. "The Constitution and the voting rights of Ohioans are too important not to. The Johnson/Weld ticket offers a critical choice in this election cycle, and as things stand Ohio Republicans have been allowed to cancel that choice. The Supreme Court may change all that."

Joshua Eck, a spokesman for Secretary Husted, said the case has been clearly decided.

"The court of appeals, like every court before them have affirmed that this law is constitutional," he said in an email. "It's time to stop wasting the taxpayers' money with this frivolous lawsuit."

The lawsuit is the latest by the LPO over ballot access. In 2006, the party successfully challenged a state law that required parties that received less than 5% of the vote in the last gubernatorial or presidential election to file petitions 120 days before the primary election, or nearly a year before the general election, in order to appear on the ballot.

The party successfully challenged a similar law in 2011, this one requiring the petitions to be filed 90 days before the primary election.

"As we have promised Ohio voters, the LPO will work to overturn any and all unconstitutional restrictions that Republicans or Democrats use to block voters from having free, fair, and meaningful choices at the ballot box," Bob Bridges, the LPO's executive committee chair, said in a statement.

Mr. Bridges said the party is currently working to gather the 5,000 signatures required to place Govs. Johnson and Weld on the ballot in November as independents. The deadline for that petition is Aug. 10.

Ethics Commission: Former Columbus Council Members Should Pay For Attendance At 2014 Game

The Ohio Ethics Commission has reached agreements with three former Columbus City Council members, including current Mayor Andrew Ginther, for them to pay more than \$400 each after accepting tickets to the 2014 Big Ten Championship football game from a vendor.

The letters from the OEC released Monday call for Mr. Ginther, Council Member Shannon Hardin and now-Franklin County Municipal Judge Eileen Paley to pay \$446.53 to the City of Columbus to benefit new city ethics policies and protocols.

All three were members of the city council in 2014 when Centerplate, a vendor of the Franklin County Convention Facility Authority, paid for them to attend the game in Indianapolis.

The city appoints members to the authority and appropriates more than \$7 million per year to fulfill bond requirements from the FCCFA, meaning the city could be required to fund authority deficits, according to the letter.

The OEC also sent a letter to Donald Leach Jr., an attorney representing the FCCFA, calling for him to pay \$893.06 for the cost of attendance for him and his wife.

Mr. Hardin also agreed to pay \$893.06, also covering the cost of a guest who attended.

The amounts to be paid are the difference between what the officials paid and what the OEC determined the actual cost to Centerplate was for the event and transportation.

The OEC letters said there was no finding in the review that ethics law or other statutes were violated, so the matters were closed and no further action will be taken.

Education Notes: ODE Seeking Career-Focused Education Grant; Chancellor Carey Plans UA Visit; OSU Police Department Recognized

The Ohio Department of Education is soliciting public input as it pursues a grant aimed at improving career-focused education.

Before submitting its application for the three-year grant, ODE said it would like to gather survey responses from educators, parents, students, businesses and community organizations to determine the access to career prep resources in schools now.

"The department will use the information from the survey to create the grant proposal on how Ohio will increase pathways for students to get the training and skills they need to compete for jobs," according to an ODE release.

The New Skills for Youth grant is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium and JP Morgan Chase.

Chancellor Visit: Chancellor John Carey will head to the University of Akron Tuesday to lead a roundtable discussion on higher education and business partnerships.

ODHE announced that from 10:30-noon he'll be joined by UA's Interim President Matthew J. Wilson as well as business partners and a number of representatives from northeast Ohio colleges and universities that are part of a Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills grant process.

Mr. Carey is expected to explain the funding that will be provided to the region as part of a RAPIDS grant and how that money can be used to benefit businesses and higher education.

Campus Police: Ohio State University's Police Division has received its first reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the institution announced.

The campus police department is one of about 70 universities agencies that meet the commission's 188 standards, according to an OSU release. It was first accredited by CALEA in 2013.

"The Ohio State University Police Division has a uniquely tailored approach focusing on both safety and education," OSUPD Chief Craig Stone said in a statement. "CALEA accreditation exemplifies our commitment to the safety of our campus community and shows we hold our officers to the highest standards in law enforcement."

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, August 3

Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board, Ohio Department of Public Safety
Atrium, 1970 W. Broad St., 1st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Sunday, August 7

Lisa Schacht (R-Candidate 20th House District) fundraiser, Schacht Family Farm, 5950 Shannon Road, Canal Winchester, 6 p.m., (Special Guests Secretary of State Jon Husted and Ohio Senator Kevin Bacon. Host: \$300; Host Committee: \$200; Supporter: \$100; Attendee: \$25/person to Citizens for Lisa Schacht)

Thursday, August 11

Ohio Charter School Summit, Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Friday, August 12

Ohio Charter School Summit, Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street, Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville) Golf Outing fundraiser, Darby Creek Golf Course, 19300 Orchard Road, Marysville, 11:30 a.m., (11:30am Registration and Lunch; 12:30pm Shotgun Start; 5:00pm Reception with Special Guest Attorney General Mike DeWine. Lunch/Golf/Reception: \$80/person; Reception Only: \$40/person; Hole Sponsor: \$100 to Pelanda for State Representative)

Tuesday, August 16

Wes Goodman (R-Candidate 87th House District) fundraiser, Cedar Creek Barn, 7723 State Route 42, Mansfield, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$200; Couple: \$50; Individual: \$25 to Friends of Wes Goodman)

Tuesday, August 23

Canceled: Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Sponsor: \$1,000; Patron: \$500; Guest: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Wednesday, August 24

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Candidate 16th Senate District) golf outing fundraiser, Country Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$1,000 Total Contribution. Golfers pay for their own golf. Please make separate checks for \$500 each payable to Troy Balderson for State Senator & Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Tuesday, September 6

Matt Huffman (R-Candidate 12th Senate District) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Rd., Lima, 9 a.m., (Registration 9:00-10:00am, Shotgun Start 10:00am \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Rep. Gary Scherer (R- Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Pinnacle Golf Club, 1500 Pinnacle Club Drive, Grove City, 11 a.m., (11:00am Shotgun and Lunch; 12:00pm Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,500; Food/Beverage Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$400; Hole Sponsor: \$200; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) Winery Reception fundraiser, Debonne Vineyards, 7840 Doty Road, Madison, 5:30 p.m., (with Special Guest Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor. Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Friends of Ron Young)

Wednesday, September 7

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, County Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$1,000 Total Contribution. Golfers

pay for their own golf. Please make separate checks for \$500 each payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle & Peterson for Good Government)

Tuesday, September 13

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and/or Committee to Elect Doug Green)

Wednesday, September 14

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) and Rep. Margy Conditt (R-Liberty Township) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio and/or Friends of Margy Conditt)

Monday, September 19

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) golf outing fundraiser, Homestead Golf Course, 5327 Worley Road, Tipp City, 8:30 a.m., (8:30am Registration and Light Breakfast; 9:30am Remarks from Congressman Warren Davidson; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,000; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$250 PAC/\$150 Individual to Steve Huffman for State Rep)

Tuesday, September 20

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Waterville) fundraiser, OHROC Offices, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Wednesday, September 21

Craig Riedel (R-Candidate 82nd House District) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$200 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel)

Friday, September 30

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) fly fishing fundraiser, Spring Run Farms, 9206 Haddix Road, Fairborn, 11 a.m., (11:00am-4:00pm Fishing, 4:00-6:00pm Reception; \$1,000 Pike Sponsor | \$500 Salmon Sponsor | \$350 Trout Sponsor | \$175 Bluegill Sponsor | \$100 per couple/family | \$75 per Individual to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Tuesday, October 18

OHROC Fundraising Reception, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad Street, Gold Room, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 OHROC)

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House Activity for Monday, August 1, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 587  **DASHBOARD CAMERAS (Boyce, K.)** To require law enforcement officers to use dashboard cameras and body cameras during any time that they are interacting with any member of the public while in the performance of their duties, to provide for state financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of such cameras and related equipment, and to make an appropriation. Am. 109.73, 109.742, 109.77, 109.79, and 109.80 and to enact sections 2901.51 and 2901.52

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Senate Activity for Monday, August 1, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 342 ■ **WEAPON POSSESSION** (Thomas, C.) To grant municipal corporations the authority to impose a ban or restriction on the open carry or concealed carry of any firearm in a publicly secured area established by the municipal corporation during an event of regional or national significance being held in the municipal corporation. Am. 9.68, 2923.122, and 2923.126 of the Revised Code and to amend Section 9 of Am. Sub. H.B. 12 of the 125th General Assembly

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, August 2

Legislative Committees

Senate Agriculture (Committee Record), House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150, Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Donahey Nationwide Ag./Hort. Building, Ohio State Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

- Testimony from Virgil Strickler, General Manager of the Ohio State Fair; Jack Fisher, Executive Vice President of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation; Dave Daniels, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture; Jim Zehringer, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Craig Butler, Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Dean Rustin Moore, DVM, PhD, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Mary Buehler, Ohio Fair's Queen/FFA State President

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474), Rm. 119, 1:30 p.m.

House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 2:30 p.m.

- Session to fill vacancies in the 3rd and 47th House Districts

Agency Calendar

Construction Industry Licensing Board, OCILB Conf. Rm., 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (Electrical Section)

Board of Building Appeals, Training Rm. 1, 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 12:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) fundraiser, 21 W. Broad Street, 7th Floor, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Perales)

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Ohio Report for Monday, August 1, 2016

Following JCARR Discussion, Dietitians, ODA To Continue Talks On Senior Food Programs

State Still Seeking Lethal Drugs With Next Execution Set For January; Lawmakers Look To Alternatives

Trump, Clinton At Odds During Columbus Campaign Stops

GOP Lawmakers Tout Model Suicide Prevention Legislation, Contemplate Charter School Industry Structures At ALEC Event

Husted Urging Changes In Special Election Laws

LPO Plans Appeal After Latest Setback In Ballot Access Case

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Volume #85, Report #147 -- Monday, August 1, 2016

Following JCARR Discussion, Dietitians, ODA To Continue Talks On Senior Food Programs

Dietitians argued Monday that current and pending administrative rules could impair nutrient adequacy and lack adequate food safety guidelines for senior citizens.

Representatives of the Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics told the Joint Committee on Agency Rule and Review their concerns have not been completely addressed by rule changes put forth by the Department of Aging. (Agenda)

At the same time, they thanked the department for taking their feedback into account, even if all their proposed changes were not adopted during the rulemaking process.

"We're not going to let this go," OAND State Policy Representative Pat McKnight said. "We'll meet with the department and go over these (issues) but we just wanted to make you all aware this issue is not solved."

In the end, JCARR members did not act on the rule, which allows it to proceed toward implementation.

Following a "productive" meeting with the department last week, interested parties are next scheduled to meet in six months to continue the discussion, Ms. McKnight said. But at the urging of Rep. Cheryl Grossman (R-Grove City), ODA Policy Development Manager Tom Simmons said the department would be agreeable to moving that meeting up to take place within two months.

The testimony came in response to a rule package including 19 proposed rules and 18 other rules to be rescinded pertaining to nutrition programs under the Older Americans Act. The rules would pertain to AAA providers, which include local area aging agencies.

Specifically, the groups are concerned with Rule 173-4-5 and Rule 173-4-5.2, which establish general requirements for nutrition projects and home-delivered meal projects respectively.

Part of the concern centers on the one-third federal dietary reference intake for meals, which requires a minimum of one-third of one's meals provided through OAA funding meet nutritional requirements. Ms. McKnight said the new rule along with existing federal law does not provide enough information to ensure the one-third requirement is met. She said it also prohibits the use of leader nutrients, which dietitians had formerly used as a workaround to meet those requirements.

"It's not that the dietitian wouldn't want to do it," she said of compliance. "There is no way he or she could do it because the data's simply not available."

Ms. McKnight also contended that the new rules include no standards for non-therapeutic menus - healthy diets not tailored to a specific patient. More providers, she said, are using such menus to cut down on their clients' intake of carbs or sodium. And she questioned the department's claim that it has no ability to develop or enforce food safety standards for such providers.

Mr. Simmons said the department lacks jurisdiction in modifying the federal OAA. But he said the department is committed to having an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders.

"The number one goal of our entire project is to remove the overbearing regulation within these rules and with that make it easier to do business," Mr. Simmons said.

OAND State Regulatory Specialist Kay Mavko said the group plans to continue to engage the department and lawmakers on these issues.

"We are committed to working on this," Ms. Mavko said. "We don't want to let it go. We realize the department is limited in what it has the authority to do and what the rulemaking process allows it to do, but we still have some concerns."

State Still Seeking Lethal Drugs With Next Execution Set For January; Lawmakers Look To Alternatives

Ohio's next scheduled execution is now less than six months away, yet the state hasn't been able to obtain at least one drug typically used in the lethal injection process since 2013.

The state is still trying to acquire drugs used to carry out executions, according to JoEllen Smith, a spokeswoman for the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

"DRC continues to seek all legal means to obtain the drugs necessary to carry out court ordered executions," she said. "This process has included multiple options."

Without the drugs necessary, the state could be forced to again delay the execution of Ronald Phillips, who was convicted of the 1993 murder of a 3-year-old girl. He is one of 26 people scheduled to be executed by the state in the coming years.

Mr. Phillips has had several execution dates, the most recent of which was Jan. 21, 2016. He had a 2014 execution date that was delayed after the botched execution of Dennis McGuire, who gasped for air at times over a 25-minute process carried out for the first time in Ohio with a two-drug cocktail.

That concoction - a mixture of midazolam, a sedative, and hydromorphone, a narcotic painkiller - was used for the first time because in the fall of 2013 European

pharmaceutical companies blocked the sale of pentobarbital, which was previously used in the lethal injection process.

In the wake of Mr. McGuire's execution - which the state said caused no pain - a federal judge in May 2014 issued a moratorium on the death penalty in Ohio, which was later extended until Jan 15, 2015.

Shortly before the moratorium expired, the state announced that it would abandon the use of the two-drug mixture and instead use thiopental sodium, which was utilized in executions from 1999 to 2011.

However, in October, the state announced that it was again delaying all executions, with 2017 as the earliest date. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 20, 2015)

Gov. John Kasich also signed legislation (HB663, 130th General Assembly) in December 2014 to shield the identities of execution-drug makers.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) laid blame for the state's inability to secure the drugs necessary to carry out an execution at the feet of the administration of President Barack Obama.

"The Obama administration chooses not to enforce marijuana laws, which then lead to states legalizing medical marijuana," he said. "Strangely enough they go beyond what they are authorized to do relative to execution drugs."

Nonetheless, he expressed hope that once a new administration takes office on Jan. 20, it will make it easier to secure drugs necessary to carry out executions.

Current state law allows for executions to be carried out only through lethal injection. However, one panel led by Sen. Coley is exploring alternate forms of execution.

The Joint Legislative Study Committee on Victims' Rights in March heard testimony from Matt Kanai, general counsel for the law enforcement division in the attorney general's office, on ways other states are dealing with the lack of lethal injection drugs. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 10, 2016)

Sen. Coley said he is intrigued by nitrogen hypoxia as a form of execution, which Oklahoma has recently added as an option to carry out the death penalty.

He said the death would be similar to that caused by a decompressed plane cabin and added he believes it would not be deemed cruel or unusual by the courts. However, he said he would prefer to let the issue work its way through the justice system, which could take two to four years, before moving forward with it as a form of execution in Ohio.

The abolishment of the death penalty, though, is not on the table for Sen. Coley.

"The one great thing about the death penalty is there is zero recidivism," he said. "There are truly evil people in this world and it's our duty to eradicate them from the face of the planet. The death penalty has been an effective tool to that end."

However, Abe Bonowitz, communications director of Ohioans to Stop Executions, said the state should follow the lead of others and abolish the death penalty.

"We have a system that is blatantly unfair and has all kinds of issues with it," he said.

"The trends with the death penalty are away from it across the country and in Ohio fewer counties are using it," he added.

As for Mr. Phillips' scheduled execution, Sen. Coley said he's been led to believe that it can still be carried out.

"From everything that I've heard from the director, right now they believe it can be," he said. "They still have time."

Trump, Clinton At Odds During Columbus Campaign Stops

Donald Trump began his Columbus appearance Monday by blasting a local fire marshal for turning away "thousands" of his supporters for political reasons.

Before taking the stage at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Mr. Trump made a brief surprise appearance to media gathered outside the room, according to various reports.

There he claimed there were thousands of people outside until they were turned away "for political reasons" by the fire marshal. Several media reports placed the number closer to hundreds.

"So we have a thousand people in there," Mr. Trump said, according to video. "The fire marshal said he's not allowed to allow any more, even though the building holds many thousands of people, so I just want to tell you that."

The perceived slight was the first thing Mr. Trump mentioned upon taking the mic. From there, he segued into terrorism, the border, trade, and his desire to see a ballroom constructed at the White House.

His appearance came one day after Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and her VP pick Sen. Tim Kaine appeared in Columbus, where Ms. Clinton labeled Mr. Trump "a serious threat to our democracy."

With the event billed as a town hall, Mr. Trump fielded three questions on topics including healthcare, regulation on small businesses, and the heroin epidemic.

He pinned Ohio's job loss on President Bill Clinton, saying that the state lost one in three manufacturing jobs since the signing of NAFTA, and accused Ms. Clinton of being beholden to large donors.

"We are going to turn this state into a manufacturing behemoth," he said. "We are going to bring your jobs back, we're going to bring your companies back."

Between his usual attacks on illegal immigrants and the media, he said he's raised \$35.8 million in the last month from more than 500,000 donors and added that if he'd had two more days to campaign for the primary he - and not Gov. John Kasich - would have won the Buckeye State, which he lost by 11 points. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 15, 2016)

Mr. Trump did not mention his criticism of a Muslim couple - Khizr and Ghazala Khan - which GOP leaders have rebuked in recent days. Ohio veterans, in a Monday morning conference call organized by the Clinton campaign, called upon Mr. Trump to apologize for those attacks.

The Khans criticized the businessman during a speech at the Democratic National Convention, while describing the death of their son, a U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq. Mr. Trump spent days afterward blasting the couple. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 29, 2016)

As attacks continue to volley between Mr. Trump and the Khans, Republican leaders - including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell - sought to distance themselves from Mr. Trump's remarks. GOP VP candidate Mike Pence, meanwhile, issued a statement saying he and Mr. Trump believe the Khans and their son "should be cherished by every American."

"Donald Trump does not understand the experience of our military families or our veterans," said former Democratic lawmaker and Air Force veteran Connie Pillich. "He tries to portray himself as strong and brash, but there is nothing strong or powerful about insulting the family of a fallen soldier."

Air Force Reserve member Rep. John Boccieri (D-Alliance) said "words do matter... and Donald Trump just doesn't get it."

"It's very clear from his remarks about John McCain and now Capt. Khan that he doesn't understand the type of sacrifices the men and women in uniform make for our country," he said. "The suffering and pain and struggle that these families go through on a daily basis are just unspeakable and to make light of it, to now attack this family I think is very indicative of the type of presidency he will run."

Republicans have also steered clear of the remarks, with Gov. John Kasich tweeting in his most recent disagreement with Mr. Trump: "There's only one way to talk about Gold Star parents: With honor and respect. Capt. Khan is a hero. Together we should pray for his family."

Ms. Clinton has likewise criticized the businessman for those attacks. During her Columbus appearance, she told the crowd "it's going to be up to all of us to repudiate" such attacks.

Ms. Clinton's latest Columbus appearance marked the culmination of her three-day "Stronger Together" bus tour of Pennsylvania and Ohio. There Ms. Clinton questioned Mr. Trump's business acumen and outlined her plan to invest in jobs during her first 100 days in office.

She pushed for more support for small businesses and asked rhetorically what would have happened if her father, who made draperies, had fulfilled his contractual obligations only for someone like Mr. Trump to refuse to pay for the product.

"To person after person and business after business, Donald Trump said, 'I don't care,'" Ms. Clinton said. "It's not because he couldn't pay them. He wouldn't pay them. He drove businesses into bankruptcy in addition to taking bankruptcy himself six times. My friends, that's not how we do business in America."

"He makes dress shirts in China, not Brooklyn, New York," she continued. "He makes furniture in Turkey, not Cleveland, Ohio. He makes barware in Slovenia, not Jackson, Ohio. And he goes around saying he wants to put America first and American workers first."

The campaign continues seizing upon news from recent days that Mr. Trump recently applied for dozens of H-2B visas to fill staff positions at his Palm Beach Mar-a-Lago resort and his Jupiter, Fla., golf club with foreign workers.

"Shame on you, Donald Trump," Ms. Clinton said. "Let's cut through all the hype and rhetoric and understand that we're dealing with somebody who has a history of stiffing people, making things somewhere else besides America, and whenever possible, hiring foreign workers."

Bump: Ms. Clinton appears to have received a polling boost following the Democratic National Convention last week. A CBS News July 29-31 poll showed her leading Mr. Trump nationally 47-41%.

The pair were virtually tied in the same poll last week following the Republican National Convention. When including Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson, Ms. Clinton leads Mr. Trump 43-38%, followed by Mr. Johnson at 10%.

Mr. Trump had previously seen a post-RNC bump in some polls conducted last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2016)

Endorsement: The Ohio Right to Life PAC on Monday announced its endorsement of Mr. Trump and a handful of candidates for other offices.

"Our mission is to protect the sanctity of human life, and right now there is no ticket more threatening to that mission than that of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine," ORTL President Mike Gonidakis said. "Many times over, Mr. Trump has committed himself to appointing pro-life Supreme Court Justices, signing the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, and protecting religious liberty."

Mr. Trump has faced questioned on his views on abortion. In 1999, he said he was "very pro-choice," although he said his opinion has since "evolved." Currently anti-abortion, he caught flack earlier this year, even from anti-abortion groups, for suggesting in an MSNBC interview "there has to be some form of punishment" for women who obtain an abortion. He later walked back that comment.

GOP Lawmakers Tout Model Suicide Prevention Legislation, Contemplate Charter School Industry Structures At ALEC Event

Legislation providing suicide prevention tools to colleges and universities that originated in the Ohio House is on course to be copied by other states.

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) last week attended the American Legislative Exchange Council's annual meeting to promote her resolution that the organization has approved as model legislation.

The controversial annual ALEC meeting typically draws conservative lawmakers to draft and consider bills that are oftentimes backed by the private sector.

Ohio lawmakers who attended the event include Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina), Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell), Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.), Rep. Wes Retherford (R-Hamilton), Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina), Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville), Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati).

While some question the group's motives for including businesses in the bill-writing process, Rep. Anielski said the three-day meeting allows her to collaborate with lawmakers across the country to view issues differently.

ALEC was also beneficial in helping her promote legislation (HB 28) that was enacted last summer in Ohio, she said. It provides colleges and universities with free access to suicide prevention programs as well as related materials and tools that were already available to K-12 schools.

"I wanted to make sure that the resources were out there because there are some universities that have already met all the requirements because they're already doing this, but I wanted to bring up the people that needed help and I didn't want them to start from scratch so now they have options," Rep. Anielski said in an interview.

The bill also required institutions to take part in a five-part program that includes crisis intervention access, mental health program access, multimedia applications, a student communication plan and more.

The ALEC-approved version of the legislation is a resolution urging colleges to take part in the programs rather than requiring it, Rep. Anielski said.

"Basically it's almost like a committee process and you have to go and sell it and market it and basically convince your colleagues from around the nation that this is a good idea," she said of ALEC. "I presented it first as a bill in December and they asked me to come back and present it as a resolution because they didn't want schools to be mandated to do that."

West Virginia has already enacted legislation that mirrors Ohio's bill, while four other states have used portions of it, Rep. Anielski said. She's hoping those numbers go up now that the concept has ALEC backing.

She was joined in education-related sessions by Rep. Brenner, who said he spent a portion of the annual meeting involved in brainstorming on charter schools.

The discussions, which included presentations from school choice and charter school leaders from across the country, allowed participants to begin building a framework for those states that need to improve their sectors or are looking to establish one, he said in an interview.

Holding dropout recovery and prevention schools accountable in ways other than test scores that address the makeup of those schools was also a topic of conversation.

"Basically, the biggest thing I don't think (people) get about ALEC is it's not an evil thing. It just like a big interested party meeting," Rep. Brenner said of his experience, referring to criticism of the group.

"We're just discussing basic public policy and what would be good model legislation written basically by legislators and we're dealing with the same organizations back in our Statehouse," he added.

Center for Media and Democracy, the group behind a website called ALEC Exposed, doesn't buy that, though. It argues on its website that the ALEC meetings are where "global corporations and state politicians vote behind closed doors to try to rewrite state laws that govern your rights."

Rep. Brenner said he'd like to see the event televised to provide transparency and educate people about the issues lawmakers - whose meeting expenses are covered by the party - are addressing.

Held in Indianapolis, the event agenda included breakout sessions as well as a speakers list that featured Trump running mate Gov. Mike Pence.

Husted Urging Changes In Special Election Laws

Absentee voting has started in a special Democratic primary for the Eighth Congressional District, although Secretary of State Jon Husted is pushing lawmakers to change the law that is requiring the election to take place.

The special primary is designed to name a Democratic candidate to replace Corey Foister on the ballot in November. Mr. Foister withdrew 107 days before the November election and will be replaced on the ballot by Steve Fought.

State law requires a special election to be held if a congressional candidate withdraws from the race with more than 90 days to go before the general election, according to Mr. Husted's office. After the 90th day before the election, there's a window allowed by state law in which the party could appoint a candidate without a special election.

In a statement, Secretary Husted said he will urge the General Assembly to make changes to Ohio law to avoid having conduct a special primary election in which only one candidate is running in the future.

"It is a waste of time and tax dollars to hold a special election when only one candidate is running," Secretary Husted said. "I hope the legislature will change the law to avoid this problem in the future."

Absentee voting in the special primary for overseas and military voters started Saturday, according to the Secretary of State's office.

Mr. Fought, a former press secretary for U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), lives in Toledo but plans to move to Butler County to run for the seat, according to a report from the *Toledo Blade*.

Mr. Fought will face U.S. Rep. Warren Davidson (R-Troy), who won the seat formerly held by House Speaker John Boehner in a special election in June (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016). Green Party candidate James J. Condit Jr. is also running for the seat.

LPO Plans Appeal After Latest Setback In Ballot-Access Case

The Libertarian Party of Ohio said Monday it will appeal a federal appeals court's rejection of the group's claims it was unfairly kept off the state ballot in the 2014 election.

The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday affirmed the May decision by a district court in favor of Secretary of State Jon Husted.

In its appeal to the Sixth Circuit, the LPO claimed state actors selectively enforced the law against Libertarian Party candidates and that state law violated the equal protection

clause of the 14th Amendment by requiring new minor parties to nominate candidates by petition, rather than primary elections.

Circuit Judge Karen Nelson Moore wrote in the decision that the LPO failed to demonstrate the Secretary of State's Office worked with the Ohio Republican Party in a conspiracy to keep the Libertarians off the ballot in 2014. Judge Moore said the district court was correct in granting summary judgment on the selective enforcement claim.

As to the claim of equal rights violations, the court ruled the state's interest in requiring new minor parties to demonstrate a base of support outweighed the burden placed on the LPO by having to nominate candidates by petition, instead of by primary election.

Mark Brown, the LPO's lead attorney, said in a statement that the party will appeal the decision, saying voters should have the ability to vote for their presidential ticket of former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson and former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld.

"We are immediately appealing the Sixth Circuit's decision to the United States Supreme Court," he said. "The Constitution and the voting rights of Ohioans are too important not to. The Johnson/Weld ticket offers a critical choice in this election cycle, and as things stand Ohio Republicans have been allowed to cancel that choice. The Supreme Court may change all that."

Joshua Eck, a spokesman for Secretary Husted, said the case has been clearly decided.

"The court of appeals, like every court before them have affirmed that this law is constitutional," he said in an email. "It's time to stop wasting the taxpayers' money with this frivolous lawsuit."

The lawsuit is the latest by the LPO over ballot access. In 2006, the party successfully challenged a state law that required parties that received less than 5% of the vote in the last gubernatorial or presidential election to file petitions 120 days before the primary election, or nearly a year before the general election, in order to appear on the ballot.

The party successfully challenged a similar law in 2011, this one requiring the petitions to be filed 90 days before the primary election.

"As we have promised Ohio voters, the LPO will work to overturn any and all unconstitutional restrictions that Republicans or Democrats use to block voters from having free, fair, and meaningful choices at the ballot box," Bob Bridges, the LPO's executive committee chair, said in a statement.

Mr. Bridges said the party is currently working to gather the 5,000 signatures required to place Govs. Johnson and Weld on the ballot in November as independents. The deadline for that petition is Aug. 10.

Ethics Commission: Former Columbus Council Members Should Pay For Attendance At 2014 Game

The Ohio Ethics Commission has reached agreements with three former Columbus City Council members, including current Mayor Andrew Ginther, for them to pay more than \$400 each after accepting tickets to the 2014 Big Ten Championship football game from a vendor.

The letters from the OEC released Monday call for Mr. Ginther, Council Member Shannon Hardin and now-Franklin County Municipal Judge Eileen Paley to pay \$446.53 to the City of Columbus to benefit new city ethics policies and protocols.

All three were members of the city council in 2014 when Centerplate, a vendor of the Franklin County Convention Facility Authority, paid for them to attend the game in Indianapolis.

The city appoints members to the authority and appropriates more than \$7 million per year to fulfill bond requirements from the FCCFA, meaning the city could be required to fund authority deficits, according to the letter.

The OEC also sent a letter to Donald Leach Jr., an attorney representing the FCCFA, calling for him to pay \$893.06 for the cost of attendance for him and his wife.

Mr. Hardin also agreed to pay \$893.06, also covering the cost of a guest who attended.

The amounts to be paid are the difference between what the officials paid and what the OEC determined the actual cost to Centerplate was for the event and transportation.

The OEC letters said there was no finding in the review that ethics law or other statutes were violated, so the matters were closed and no further action will be taken.

Education Notes: ODE Seeking Career-Focused Education Grant Chancellor Carey Plans UA Visit; OSU Police Department Recognized

The Ohio Department of Education is soliciting public input as it pursues a grant aimed at improving career-focused education.

Before submitting its application for the three-year grant, ODE said it would like to gather survey responses from educators, parents, students, businesses and community organizations to determine the access to career prep resources in schools now.

"The department will use the information from the survey to create the grant proposal on how Ohio will increase pathways for students to get the training and skills they need to compete for jobs," according to an ODE release.

The New Skills for Youth grant is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium and JP Morgan Chase.

Chancellor Visit: Chancellor John Carey will head to the University of Akron Tuesday to lead a roundtable discussion on higher education and business partnerships.

ODHE announced that from 10:30-noon he'll be joined by UA's Interim President Matthew J. Wilson as well as business partners and a number of representatives from northeast Ohio colleges and universities that are part of a Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills grant process.

Mr. Carey is expected to explain the funding that will be provided to the region as part of a RAPIDS grant and how that money can be used to benefit businesses and higher education.

Campus Police: Ohio State University's Police Division has received its first reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the institution announced.

The campus police department is one of about 70 universities agencies that meet the commission's 188 standards, according to an OSU release. It was first accredited by CALEA in 2013.

"The Ohio State University Police Division has a uniquely tailored approach focusing on both safety and education," OSUPD Chief Craig Stone said in a statement. "CALEA accreditation exemplifies our commitment to the safety of our campus community and shows we hold our officers to the highest standards in law enforcement."

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the Gongwer website.

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, August 3

Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board, Ohio Department of Public Safety
Atrium, 1970 W. Broad St., 1st floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Sunday, August 7

Lisa Schacht (R-Candidate 20th House District) fundraiser, Schacht Family Farm, 5950 Shannon Road, Canal Winchester, 6 p.m., (Special Guests Secretary of State Jon Husted and Ohio Senator Kevin Bacon. Host: \$300; Host Committee: \$200; Supporter: \$100; Attendee: \$25/person to Citizens for Lisa Schacht)

Thursday, August 11

Ohio Charter School Summit, Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Friday, August 12

Ohio Charter School Summit, Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street, Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville) Golf Outing fundraiser, Darby Creek Golf Course, 19300 Orchard Road, Marysville, 11:30 a.m., (11:30am Registration and Lunch; 12:30pm Shotgun Start; 5:00pm Reception with Special Guest Attorney General Mike DeWine. Lunch/Golf/Reception: \$80/person; Reception Only: \$40/person; Hole Sponsor: \$100 to Pelanda for State Representative)

Tuesday, August 16

Wes Goodman (R-Candidate 87th House District) fundraiser, Cedar Creek Barn, 7723 State Route 42, Mansfield, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$200; Couple: \$50; Individual: \$25 to Friends of Wes Goodman)

Tuesday, August 23

Canceled: Rep. Terry Johnson-(R-McDermott) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Sponsor: \$1,000; Patron: \$500; Guest: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Wednesday, August 24

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Candidate 16th Senate District) golf outing fundraiser, Country Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$1,000 Total Contribution. Golfers pay for their own golf. Please make separate checks for \$500 each payable to Troy Balderson for State Senator & Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Tuesday, September 6

Matt Huffman (R-Candidate 12th Senate District) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Rd., Lima, 9 a.m., (Registration 9:00-10:00am, Shotgun Start 10:00am \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Rep. Gary Scherer (R- Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Pinnacle Golf Club, 1500 Pinnacle Club Drive, Grove City, 11 a.m., (11:00am Shotgun and Lunch; 12:00pm Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,500; Food/Beverage Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$400; Hole Sponsor: \$200; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) Winery Reception fundraiser, Debonne Vineyards, 7840 Doty Road, Madison, 5:30 p.m., (with Special Guest Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor. Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Friends of Ron Young)

Wednesday, September 7

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, County Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$1,000 Total Contribution. Golfers

pay for their own golf. Please make separate checks for \$500 each payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle & Peterson for Good Government)

Tuesday, September 13

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) and Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee and/or Committee to Elect Doug Green)

Wednesday, September 14

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) and Rep. Margy Conditt (R-Liberty Township) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio and/or Friends of Margy Conditt)

Monday, September 19

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) golf outing fundraiser, Homestead Golf Course, 5327 Worley Road, Tipp City, 8:30 a.m., (8:30am Registration and Light Breakfast; 9:30am Remarks from Congressman Warren Davidson; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,000; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$250 PAC/\$150 Individual to Steve Huffman for State Rep)

Tuesday, September 20

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Waterloo) fundraiser, OHROC Offices, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Wednesday, September 21

Craig Riedel (R-Candidate 82nd House District) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$200 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel)

Friday, September 30

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) fly fishing fundraiser, Spring Run Farms, 9206 Haddix Road, Fairborn, 11 a.m., (11:00am-4:00pm Fishing, 4:00-6:00pm Reception; \$1,000 Pike Sponsor | \$500 Salmon Sponsor | \$350 Trout Sponsor | \$175 Bluegill Sponsor | \$100 per couple/family | \$75 per Individual to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Tuesday, October 18

OHROC Fundraising Reception, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad Street, Gold Room, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 OHROC)

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House Activity for Monday, August 1, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 587 ■ **DASHBOARD CAMERAS (Boyce, K.)** To require law enforcement officers to use dashboard cameras and body cameras during any time that they are interacting with any member of the public while in the performance of their duties, to provide for state financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of such cameras and related equipment, and to make an appropriation. Am. 109.73, 109.742, 109.77, 109.79, and 109.80 and to enact sections 2901.51 and 2901.52

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Senate Activity for Monday, August 1, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 342 ■ **WEAPON POSSESSION** (Thomas, C.) To grant municipal corporations the authority to impose a ban or restriction on the open carry or concealed carry of any firearm in a publicly secured area established by the municipal corporation during an event of regional or national significance being held in the municipal corporation. Am. 9.68, 2923.122, and 2923.126 of the Revised Code and to amend Section 9 of Am. Sub. H.B. 12 of the 125th General Assembly

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Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, August 2

Legislative Committees

Senate Agriculture (Committee Record), House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150, Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Donahey Nationwide Ag./Hort. Building, Ohio State Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

- Testimony from Virgil Strickler, General Manager of the Ohio State Fair; Jack Fisher, Executive Vice President of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation; Dave Daniels, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture; Jim Zehringer, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Craig Butler, Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Dean Rustin Moore, DVM, PhD, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Mary Buehler, Ohio Fair's Queen/FFA State President

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474), Rm. 119, 1:30 p.m.

House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 2:30 p.m.

- Session to fill vacancies in the 3rd and 47th House Districts

Agency Calendar

Construction Industry Licensing Board, OCILB Conf. Rm., 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (Electrical Section)

Board of Building Appeals, Training Rm. 1, 6606 Tussing Rd., Reynoldsburg, 12:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) fundraiser, 21 W. Broad Street, 7th Floor, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Perales)

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Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Standard_Subscriber_updates@gongwer-oh.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--Troopers Reach Contract Agreement With State



Thursday, August 25, 2016, 01:15 PM

Troopers Reach Contract Agreement With State

The state and Ohio State Troopers Association on Thursday announced details of a tentative three-year contract agreement supported by more than 90% of the union members who voted in recent days.

The 1,760-member union negotiated a 12.5% raise over three years in annual increments of 5%, 5% and 2.5%, OSTA President Jeremy Mendenhall said. Since the negotiations were delayed, the first year increase will be retroactive to the expiration date of the last contract, which was July 1, 2015.

The pact includes a one-time ratification payment of \$750 for members, according to the union and Department of Administrative Services.

OSTA received a higher increase than other union employees, which received 7.5% over three years "in exchange for concessions to the Health and Physical Fitness Program, management discretion in selection, and flexibility in the area of personal leave," the two sides reported in a joint news release.

The groups said language in the contract that enhances management rights and employee accountability, streamlines the disciplinary process and lengthens the retention period for discipline, is "consistent with the changes in the other collective bargaining agreements," according to the release.

Pending Controlling Board ratification, the contract will be effective on Sept. 29.

More details in today's Gongwer News Service *Ohio Report*.

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From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2016 10:01 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: FW: Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Greene County and Village of Jamestown Checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com
Attachments: 2016-09-01 Greene County joins OhioCheckbook.com.jpg

Please post for today/ the weekend... thanks!

From: Merritt, Amanda [mailto:Amanda.Merritt@tos.ohio.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 02, 2016 10:00 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Cc: Gross, Spencer
Subject: Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Greene County and Village of Jamestown Checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com

Hi Carolyn,

Below is a copy of our release from yesterday's Greene County event with a photo



JOSH MANDEL
STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

attached. I'll be sure to copy you when a member is involved for any future events. Thank you for your help!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mandi Merritt

September 1,
2016

(614) 995-1783

****Photo Included*

Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Greene County and Village of Jamestown Checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com

*Momentum Grows for Statewide Government Transparency with Over
800 Local Government and School Districts Partnering with
OhioCheckbook.com*

XENIA – Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced today the launch of Greene County and the Village of Jamestown’s online checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com. In December 2014, Treasurer Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com, which sets a new national standard for government transparency and for the first time in Ohio history puts all state spending information on the internet. OhioCheckbook.com recently earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for a second year in a row.

The Ohio Treasurer’s office was joined at today’s announcement by Greene County Auditor David Graham, County Commissioners Tom Koogler, Alan Anderson and Bob Glaser, Treasurer Dick Gould, County Administrator Brandon Huddleson, and State Representative Bill Dean.

Greene County is the 22nd county in Ohio to post their spending on OhioCheckbook.com, and Jamestown is the third village in Greene County to post their spending on OhioCheckbook.com.

The following is a breakdown of today’s local government sites:

- Greene County’s online checkbook includes over 95,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$280 million of total spending over Fiscal Year 2016.
- Jamestown’s online checkbook includes over 13,500 individual transactions that represent more than \$5.3 million of total spending over the past four years.

“I believe the people of Greene County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent, and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with my office to post the finances on OhioCheckbook.com,” said Treasurer Mandel. “By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable.”

“Greene County has always strived to utilize technology to efficiently manage our government,” said Auditor David Graham. “From posting financial reports online, to providing an interactive databases for license purchases, these convenient tools allow citizens to gain quicker access to information. OhioCheckbook.com will continue this trend by allowing our residents to see just where their tax dollars are being spent. I am proud to have Greene County join this initiative and look forward to using it to effectively communicate with our citizens.”

“I applaud the Greene County Commissioners for working with State Treasurer Mandel to make Greene County’s financial transactions easily accessible via OhioCheckbook.com,” said State Representative Bill Dean. “As a member of the State Government Committee, I am proud of the strong relationship between the State and Greene County. Through partnerships such as Ohio’s Checkbook, we use the power of technology to promote transparency of the people’s money in our local community.”

“I am delighted that Greene County is joining Treasurer Mandel’s initiative to make local and state government expenses transparent and accessible to all,” said State Representative Rick Perales. “OhioCheckbook.com is a great resource for citizens to see exactly where their tax dollars are going and to ensure that their government is accountable.”

“I have been working on this issue with my colleagues since the beginning because it is the right thing to do,” said State Senator Bob Hackett. “I applaud all of those in Greene County who worked on this and am excited to see it finally happening.”

On April 7, 2015 Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

A large coalition of statewide and local government organizations have expressed support for OhioCheckbook.com and local government transparency, including:

- Ohio Municipal League

- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioner Association of Ohio
- County Auditor Association of Ohio
- Ohio Newspaper Association
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- Buckeye Institute
- Common Cause Ohio

OhioCheckbook.com was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, OhioCheckbook.com has received overwhelming support from newspapers and groups across the state and, as of August 31, 2016 there have been more than 612,000 total searches on the site.

OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$540 billion in spending over the past eight years, including more than 148 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- “Google-style” contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and,
- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

In March 2015, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) released their annual “Following the Money 2015” report and Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one transparency ranking in the country for providing online access to government spending data. Ohio was prominently featured in the report after climbing from 46th to 1st in spending transparency as a result of Treasurer Mandel’s release of OhioCheckbook.com. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio received a perfect score of 100 points this year – the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

In April 2016, U.S. PIRG announced that Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second consecutive year in a row. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio again received the highest perfect score of 100 points this year – marking the second time in two years Ohio

received the highest possible score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

The Treasurer's office is partnering with OpenGov, a leading Silicon Valley government technology company, to provide residents of Ohio the ability to view and search local government expenditures in a user-friendly, digital format. "Ohio is setting the standard for financial transparency on an unprecedented scale. We are excited to partner with the Treasurer's office to bring world-class technology to communities large and small across the state," said Zachary Bookman, CEO of OpenGov.

For more information or to view your local government website, visit the Local Government option on OhioCheckbook.com or click on:

- GreeneCounty.OhioCheckbook.com;
- Jamestown.OhioCheckbook.com.

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2016 5:49 PM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: Ohio Report, Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Attachments: Sep6House.htm; 160906dayplan.htm; Sep6.htm



Ohio Report for Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Stakeholder Group Reconvenes To Recommend Sponsor Evaluation Updates

House District 16: Cuyahoga Councilman Faces Democratic Operative In Battle For Baker Seat

Buckeye Institute Calls For More Union Decertification Votes, Policy Matters Ohio Urges Lawmakers To Promote Unionization

State Board Looking To Help 2,000 Displaced Ohio ITT Students

Ohio Sees Drop In Obesity Rate, But Trends Show Continued Rise In Diabetes, Hypertension, Report Says

Trump, Clinton Spend Holiday Campaigning In Ohio

Democratic PAC Cancels \$3M More In Strickland Ads; Nicklaus Backs Portman

From Congress: Brown, Portman Praise Trade Ruling On Steel; Kaptur Welcomes \$2M In Housing Funds; Latta Tours OSU Radio Optics Lab...

Court Briefs: Court Rules Meigs County Charter Proposal Should Move Forward; Man Injured At Basketball Game Loses Case; Attorneys Reprimanded...

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Calendars

Day Planner

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House Activity for Tuesday, September 6, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 594 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding of recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

State Audit Committee: Ranjan Manoranjan

Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board: Rep. Boggs

Task Force for Creating Opportunities for Shared Governance on Co-Located Campuses:
Representative Schuring; Dr. Para M. Jones and Natasha Pollock

Insurance Committee: Appoint Rep. Brinkman as chair

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Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the ■ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, September 7

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Real Estate Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9 a.m. (Agriculture Development Committee)

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, 50 West Broad Street - Suite 1500, Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Personnel Board of Review, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, County Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$1,000 Total Contribution. Golfers pay for their own golf. Please make separate checks for \$500 each payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle & Peterson for Good Government)

House Democrats legislative agenda news conference, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) and Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 65 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan and/or Citizens for McColley)

Release of August casino revenue figures, 1:30 p.m.

Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Victory's, 543 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,500, Patron: \$1,000 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Volume #85, Report #172 -- Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Stakeholder Group Reconvenes To Recommend Sponsor Evaluation Updates

A group of charter school sponsors who previously worked to update the process by which they are evaluated has reunited to offer new recommendations as the Ohio Department of Education heads back to the drawing board.

Sponsors have been raising concerns about a change in evaluation practices since they were introduced last year, but the time is ripe for them to step in and make their voices heard following the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review's shelving of a rule dealing with the compliance portion of the reviews.

St. Aloysius representative Dave Cash said he recently reconvened a stakeholder group that had been defunct for the past three years, hoping that JCARR's decision could provide an opportunity for members to provide feedback and offer suggestions on the evaluations.

JCARR leaders have since said they expect the ODE to present an updated rule and the Common Sense Initiative has asked the agency to collect additional public comments.

"We anticipated JCARR would send the rule back and get stakeholder feedback that they did not get the first time. Who better to try to provide some of that stakeholder input than the ones who were involved in the evaluation to begin with?" Mr. Cash said in an interview.

"We've put a significant amount of resources into trying to put an evaluation tool together that was then not finished out and then not implemented well and it all fell apart. We felt it was our obligation to try to step up and offer recommendations to fix it."

The group, which includes representatives from the Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers, Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Reynoldsburg City Schools, and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, originally began meeting in 2012.

At that time, members - who were also joined by representatives of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and ODE employees - spent a year and a half crafting a process to measure sponsor compliance and piloting it throughout the state.

Their recommendations on compliance became part of the previous sponsor evaluation that was never fully implemented and was ultimately revamped because it came to light that sponsor ratings were miscalculated by then-Office of School Choice Director David Hansen.

Sticking with some of the same premises as the last time they were active, the group is also taking into consideration new laws as it drafts updated recommendations, some of which have already been presented to CSI and ODE, Mr. Cash said.

Earlier this week, the group created a process and timeline for the compliance portion of the evaluation. It would require the validation of just 10% of the items on the compliance list, but those items would be selected at random.

The group has also suggested that a number of items be removed from the list, the OCQE's Beth Lear said. Of the 319 items schools were required to verify compliance with, the group found that 15 were not required under law, 12 required sponsors to confirm a negative and 78 were documents to which ODE already has access.

Their recommendations were submitted the same day Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria sent the State Board of Education a memo stating that the agency would revert back to the current rule for the compliance portion of the reviews and continuing working on the new proposal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 1, 2016)

Under those compliance guidelines, ODE would examine whether all rules and laws are being met at just 10% of sponsors' schools as opposed to all of them.

Mr. Cash said that system isn't preferable because sponsors only have to certify that a number of the compliance items are being met.

Allowing sponsors to verify information without a system in place to check for validity puts the state back in the same position it was in when it asked the stakeholder group to make recommendations for a new evaluation process in 2012, he said.

"We wanted to make sure who was performing well and who was not performing well. We wanted tools so we could show we were doing the work we said we were doing," he said, adding that the previous evaluation system simply required sponsors to tell the agency whether they were meeting standards or not.

Mr. Cash said ODE has not responded to the new recommendations or voiced interest in rejoining the conversation.

"They've got to be a partner with us in this work," Mr. Cash said. "They're responsible for the Ohio system of public education and there are 400 charter schools and 120,000 students (that attend them) - that's a significant portion of Ohio's public education system and we need ODE to be partner with us on that so we can keep doing good work."

Ms. Lear said it's also important for ODE to work with sponsors on evaluation system updates because the agency also sponsors a number of charter schools.

"It doesn't really look good for one sponsor to be setting the rules for all sponsors," she said in an interview.

ODE's Brittany Halpin said, "We've received the letter and we always appreciate the input of our stakeholders."

Up next, the group said it plans to offer suggestions for changing the quality and compliance portions of the evaluations following a Sept. 12 meeting.

Mr. Cash said the latest academic portion of the review is concerning because it's centered on report card scores of schools in sponsors' portfolios, despite the fact that sponsors do not have the ability to make curriculum decisions or choose school teachers and leaders.

"All I can do as a sponsor is say, 'You promised you were going to have a school that was going to perform at this level and so far you're not getting there.' I don't have the ability to go ahead make a direct impact on their performance," he said.

House District 16: Cuyahoga Councilman Faces Democratic Operative In Battle For Baker Seat

The race to replace term-limited Rep. Nan Baker (R-Westlake) for a seat in suburban Cleveland pits a Republican veteran of local government against a young native of the area with experience working in state and national politics.

Republican nominee Dave Greenspan, 51, of Westlake, is a member of Cuyahoga County Council who moved to Ohio in 2007 from the Atlanta area. He faces Democrat Tommy Greene, 28, a Bay Village native who is the son of a steelworker and a teacher's aide.

Neither candidate faced a primary challenge in the district, which leans Republican.

Mr. Greenspan touted his experience in local government and his ability to work across the aisle. A native of New Jersey who's lived in a number of states and attended Troy University in Alabama, he served on the inaugural city council in Sandy Springs, Ga., when the city was incorporated in 2005. After moving to the Cleveland area in 2007, he was elected to the first Cuyahoga County Council in 2010.

He immediately focused on ethics, chairing the council's ethics committee, he said.

"Coming into a new government, especially one coming out of such deep-rooted corruption, I felt it was very important that the residents and businesses of Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio knew that their government was going to be working for them," he said in an interview.

The married father of three doesn't just start up local governments. He has an accounting degree and has spent much of his career as a chief financial officer for a number of companies, mostly startup ventures. He's also been the chief operating officer for the PGA Tour radio network.

He now runs a small business, Green Elk Consulting Services, which provides financial and other advice to startup and turnaround businesses.

Mr. Greene is a graduate of Ohio University who has worked for Equality Ohio and interned for Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon). He now works in business development for North Water Partners, a company in the Ohio City area of Cleveland.

The Democrat grew up in Westlake and Bay Village. He said part of the reason he became interested in politics was because his father lost his job when the steel mill where he worked closed in 2001. Following that, his father took him to a rally that included Sen. Brown and former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

"That's when I realized that when families are going through a hard time, they turn to their elected officials not for a handout or for them to answer all of their problems, but to be standing with them when things are going wrong and to be able to provide solutions to make the families a little bit stronger in the future," Mr. Greene said in an interview.

Families, through jobs and education policy, will be a focus for Mr. Greene.

"I kind of view my role as being able to strengthen Ohio's families," he said. "There's a handful of ways we can do that," including more oversight of charter schools. Education funding, particularly for public schools, will be a priority, he said.

He also said he wanted to see more infrastructure development, including pushes for Ohio to develop more clean energy products. Toledo could build more solar panels, for example, he said.

"We have a proud manufacturing history and Ohio has to be a place where we build things," he said. "We can't just be a 100% service sector economy. We have to be a manufacturing state in Ohio."

Mr. Greenspan said he has focused on a wide variety of issues during his time in public office, and believes a comprehensive approach is important. Education and drug problems are both tied to jobs.

A priority for the state, he said, is to develop a workforce of people who are able to do jobs and pass drug tests.

"We have to continue to develop what I refer to as a competent workforce. I think we all can agree that the state is continuing to move the needle in a positive direction toward workforce development," he said, but the work needs to continue.

He said he wants to see a "holistic, total" approach to the economy, one that includes focusing on education to produce good workers, luring in a wide variety of industries, and matching qualified workers with open positions.

"If you look at it in its totality, if you look at it as one big direction to move our state, it's my belief that all of those issues move us in a positive direction," he said.

"Unless you've lived this, unless you've served at the city level, unless you've served at the county level, it's hard to understand how these issues come together," he said.

Mr. Greene, who is openly gay, said nondiscrimination is also an economic development issue. When he worked for Equality Ohio, he said, one of his duties was to talk to executives about the need for nondiscrimination laws in order to recruit talented workers from other parts of the country.

"If Ohio is going to be open for business, we need to be open for talent," he said.

Mr. Greene said his campaign team has been organized and working in the community to spread his message.

"I'm out there every day talking to voters about how we're going to move our state forward," he said.

"I believe regular working families need an advocate in Columbus," he added.

Mr. Greenspan said he believes his experience as an elected official - particularly in a county council district that spans the same cities as the legislative district - sets him apart. He said he is also stressing his willingness to work across the aisle to get things done.

"We have to be able to all work together, collectively, to create the environment in our state to move in the right direction," he said.

His campaign has knocked on more than 27,000 doors already, he said.

"I've represented this district for nearly six years. I believe that I understand the opportunities and the challenges of the district," he said.

Buckeye Institute Calls For More Union Decertification Votes, Policy Matters Ohio Urges Lawmakers To Promote Unionization

In the wake of the Labor Day holiday, two groups offered competing visions on how to improve the lives of working Ohioans.

In a report released by the Buckeye Institute, the group proposed that Ohio lawmakers make it easier for state and local government employees to decertify their unions. Policy Matters Ohio, meanwhile, released a report calling for lawmakers to make it easier to join and form unions.

According to the Buckeye Institute's report, "One Man, One Vote, One Time? Re-election Votes Hold Unions Accountable to Their Members," there are more than 3,100 bargaining units covering about 300,000 state and local government employees across Ohio. However, most of those employees have had no say in their representation, it said.

"Ohio makes it very difficult for workers to have a voice in their unions," Robert Alt, Buckeye's president and CEO, said in a statement. "Under current law, the ability for union workers to hold an election is far more cumbersome than how we conduct our elections for public officials. And elections keep people accountable."

In the past three years, just 14 validly submitted decertification petitions have been submitted to the Employment Relations Board. Unions prevailed in three of those re-election efforts, the report found.

The report, however, said the decertification process is a cumbersome one, providing a 30-day window in which 50% of government employees in a bargaining unit need to sign a petition to trigger a vote.

"Just as voters hold their public officials accountable so, too, should workers be able to call for better representation," Rea Hederman Jr., executive vice president of The Buckeye Institute, said. "Ohio should follow the lead of other states by requiring their government unions to regularly stand for re-election, which will only improve their responsiveness to member needs."

The report goes on to list several complaints unionized employees have with their bargaining units, including dues spent on political activities, leaders' salaries and "insufficient" leadership elections.

"Union members should have the freedom to regularly decide whether to remain unionized. Such re-election votes would make unions more accountable to their members," the report concludes. "They would force union leaders to serve their members' interests instead of pursuing their own priorities. Workers deserve the ability to hold their union regularly accountable. Meaningful representation does not mean one man, one vote, one time."

But in its report, "Still struggling: State of Working Ohio 2016," Policy Matters Ohio says lawmakers should be promoting unionization.

Unionized workers in Ohio made about \$4 more per hour than their non-unionized counterparts in 2015, according to the report.

"Unions improve wages but Ohio's legislators and governor have often taken steps to weaken unions and reduce the number of workers who can get the protection, training and compensation benefits that come with being a member of a labor union. In order to broaden unionization in Ohio, the state should reject the misnamed 'right-to-work' initiative - states that take this approach end up with lower wages," the report reads

"Ohio should also allow home health workers and childcare workers to become part of a union - two particularly important and low-wage occupations that were once promised the right to organize into unions. For both groups, Gov. Kasich has eliminated the right to join a union and bargain collectively."

The report goes on to state that unions can reduce inequality for black and female workers. It found that black unionized workers make \$4.31 more per hour than their non-unionized counterparts while women in unions make \$3.91 more per hour.

"Ensuring that more workers can join unions will better spread the benefits of unionization," the report states.

State Board Looking To Help 2,000 Displaced Ohio ITT Students

ITT Technical Institute's parent company announced Tuesday it is pulling the plug on its 137 campuses across the country, officially displacing about 2,000 Ohio students and an unknown number of employees.

Left to help fill in the gap is the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, which is stepping in to ensure displaced students aren't left behind by the closure of the Indiana-based company that served nearly 45,000 students in 38 states.

"This is going to be a difficult process I'm sure, but we'll continue to work with the students," Board Executive Director John Ware said in an interview.

The closure had been expected ever since the federal government late last month unveiled an array of penalties, including banning the school from enrolling students with federal financial aid, after the school was found to be out of compliance with accreditation criteria.

The company on Tuesday confirmed that after assessing its options, the sanctions were deemed a death knell.

"It is with profound regret that we must report that ITT Educational Services, Inc. will discontinue academic operations at all of its ITT Technical Institutes permanently after approximately 50 years of continuous service," the company announced in a press release.

"With what we believe is a complete disregard by the U.S. Department of Education for due process to the company, hundreds of thousands of current students and alumni and more than 8,000 employees will be negatively affected."

As of Tuesday, the company had already eliminated the "overwhelming majority" of its employees and said remaining staff members are prioritizing helping displaced students determine their options.

The state board has been working on contingency plans for the students enrolled at ITT's nine Ohio campuses since the August penalties were announced, Mr. Ware said. The fact that those campuses are spread out across all corners of the state poses a particular challenge, he added.

He said the board has been working to enlist other schools for teach-out agreements in which case the school would agree to accept displaced students' ITT credits and any related financial aid. The board will be emailing a list of those schools to students this week, he said.

"Sometimes it depends on how far along in their program they are and what program they are in so we'll have to figure that out for each student - what they need to do," he said.

Alternately, he said, the board will work to connect students unable to continue their program elsewhere with the U.S. Department of Education where they could receive a loan discharge.

"We'll work with ITT to make sure students have access to their transcripts and records and anything like that the students would need going forward," Mr. Ware said. "We've already had communication about this and I know ITT was going to send an email with some of this information out to their students sometime today."

ITT's closure is the latest result of a crackdown of the federal government on for-profit colleges, although Mr. Ware said most previous closures "have been more orderly than this."

"It's been a painful process," he said.

Among the penalties levied against ITT was a requirement the company increase its existing surety from \$94 million to more than \$240 million - or 40% of all Title IV aid the school received in 2015 payable in full. The company pointed to that stipulation specifically as to why it is unable to continue operations.

"We believe the government's action was inappropriate and unconstitutional, however, with the ITT Technical Institutes ceasing operations, it will now likely rest on other parties to understand these reprehensible actions and to take action to attempt to prevent this from happening again," the company said.

In a message to ITT students, U.S. Education Secretary John King acknowledged the news will have a "deeply personal" impact on affected students and, vowing to support students as they work through their options, encouraged students to not give up on their education.

Ohio Sees Drop In Obesity Rate, But Trends Show Continued Rise In Diabetes, Hypertension, Report Says

Ohio was one of four states that saw its obesity rate fall in 2015, according to a report from the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Buckeye State ranked 26th in the U.S. with an adult obesity rate of 29.8%. That's down from 32.6% a year earlier.

Although Ohio saw a drop year-over-year, the rate was still well above what it was a decade earlier, when 24.9% of Ohio adults suffered from obesity, according to the report. In 1995, the rate was 16.1%.

The drop in Ohio and three other states - Minnesota, Montana and New York - was the first time in the last decade that any states experienced decreases except for Washington, D.C., in 2010.

Louisiana had the highest rate of obesity at 36.2%, while Colorado had the lowest at 20.2%.

Ohio had the 14th highest rate of obesity among children ages 10-17, at 17.4%, and was 35th in obesity for children ages 2-4 from low-income families, with 12.4%.

The report also cited a number of obesity-related health issues. Ohio was 17th in adult diabetes, with 11% of adults suffering from the disease. That number was down from a year before, but the overall trend remains upward - Ohio is expected to go from just over 1 million cases of diabetes in 2010 to nearly 1.6 million in 2030 at its current pace.

Even more Ohio adults suffer from hypertension. Ohio was 13th in that category, with 34.3% of adults having the condition. The number of cases is expected to rise from 2.3 million in 2010 to nearly 3.1 million in 2030 at its current pace.

Cases of heart disease and obesity-related cancer are both expected to rise dramatically over the next two decades, the report said, while arthritis cases are likely to decrease.

The State Health Assessment cited obesity among the chronic conditions that pose serious health risks to the state. That report cited links between obesity and other chronic conditions, and noted the racial and geographic disparities among them. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 22, 2016)

The SHA found obesity to be a problem cited by public health experts in all areas of the state and among a wide variety of different groups. The report cited nutrition and physical activity as possible contributing factors and opportunities for improvement.

"Although Ohio's high prevalence of obesity and diabetes indicate that much more progress is needed on physical activity, this assessment finds that Ohio has some strengths in this area," the SHA said. "First, the percent of Ohio adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity declined from 2013 to 2014 and met the Healthy People 2020 target. Second, regional forum participants in most areas of the state identified their active living environments as a characteristic that made them proud of their

community, and all regions identified a positive active living environment as one of the most important characteristics of a healthy county or region."

The Trust for America's Health report on obesity also found racial disparities in obesity. Among white Ohioans, the rate of obesity was 30.5%, while it was 37.1% among black Ohioans.

The gap was narrow between men and women, with 30.5% of men and 29.7% of women. For different age groups, it was wider, with the obesity rate among Ohioans 45-64 at 36.3%, compared to 29% for those 65 and older, 27.9% for those 26 to 44 and 17.8% for those 18-25.

Dana Schmersal, a spokeswoman for Voices for Ohio's Children, said policymakers should continue to work on programs to improve childhood nutrition.

"We are very glad to see the downward trend for childhood obesity rates in Ohio," she said in an email. "Child nutrition, however, remains a key issue across the state as both obesity and food insecurity impact far too many Ohio families, leaving our state to face the expensive cognitive, behavioral, educational, economic and health consequences that follow. Of course, it is not enough to make food more accessible and nutritious - we must work with schools, child care providers, and communities to ensure that meals are consistent with a healthier lifestyle supported by comprehensive health and physical education inside and outside of the classroom."

Trump, Clinton Spend Holiday Campaigning In Ohio

GOP nominee Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton ventured back to the Buckeye State Monday as they continued to court voters.

Ms. Clinton spoke at a Cleveland rally, where she and vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine stressed the importance of the state in the electoral landscape.

"You're used to this," Sen. Kaine told Ohio voters, saying the election has entered the "home stretch."

"You're used to the fact that you're one of the two or three most important states in any presidential election going back since there were presidential elections," he said.

In her remarks to the crowd, Ms. Clinton again questioned Mr. Trump's suitability for the office of president. She also touted a newly announced book, written by herself and Sen. Kaine, called "Stronger Together" that will showcase their plan for the future.

"We are stronger together, and that is in stark contrast to Donald Trump," she said. "When he says, 'I alone can fix it,' he doesn't understand how America works."

Mr. Trump that same day participated in a labor roundtable Monday at a Brook Park American Legion post. Media access was limited at the event, which was only first announced that morning.

"I was happy to show Mr. Trump first-hand some of the challenges that we have faced in Northeast Ohio, with local plants shutting down and jobs leaving for overseas," Brook Park Mayor Tom Coyne said in a statement released by the campaign. "Mr. Trump speaks our language, I think he's more comfortable talking to labor and working class people than he is talking to bankers, and it shows."

Mr. Trump then attended the Canfield Fair, while at the same time Clinton surrogates launched attacks seeking to undermine Mr. Trump's attempt to draw blue-collar support.

"Hillary Clinton knows that America is already great because of your hard work, because of your values, your integrity," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka told those at the fair. "She knows that our economy is strongest when we can band together and negotiate for better wages, better benefits and better working conditions. She wants to rewrite the rules of the economy so that working people win and not just billionaires, like Donald Trump, win."

The Clinton campaign on Tuesday evening is scheduled to open its latest organizing office, this one in Delaware County. The campaign has launched more than three dozen such offices across the state.

Mr. Trump, meanwhile, rated two points above Ms. Clinton in a Tuesday national poll from CNN/ORC. Mr. Trump earned 45% to Ms. Clinton's 43%, putting the pair at a statistical tie when accounting for the margin of error.

Libertarian Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein earned 7% and 2% respectively in that survey.

Democratic PAC Cancels \$3M More In Strickland Ads; Nicklaus Backs Portman

A national super PAC has canceled \$3 million worth of additional ads it planned to air supporting U.S. Senate candidate Ted Strickland.

The Senate Majority PAC announced the additional cuts Tuesday - the second such reduction the group has made in the last month. A spokesman said the group was seeking to "maximize resources."

The group had already scrapped ads set for later this month. But the additional cuts for ads previously set to air between Sept. 20-Oct. 10 mean the PAC will have no pro-Strickland advertising on Ohio airwaves until October at the earliest.

Strickland campaign spokesman David Bergstein in a statement downplayed the move, which is seen as the latest sign of Mr. Strickland losing ground to his opponent U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, saying "there's still a lot of race left to run."

"We just recently launched our paid media campaign, the national environment is rapidly deteriorating around Portman, he's facing a daily firestorm about his continued support for Trump - and Portman's small, weak field operation can't compete with the Ohio Democratic Party's coordinated field campaign which has hundreds of organizers and volunteers across the state working to elect Ted, Secretary Clinton and Democrats at every level," Mr. Bergstein said.

"Ted's going to do what he does best: campaign vigorously across Ohio, talking about the central contrast in this race - he's fighting for working people because that's where he comes from and that's who he cares about, while Senator Portman is looking out for his rich and powerful friends," he continued.

The PAC had already cancelled about \$191,000 worth of ads previously intended to run between Sept. 6-19. At the same time, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee announced it was pushing back the launch of its own ads by one week, cancelling about \$500,000 in reserved airtime in September and moving that money to support the campaign's own advertising. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 30, 2016)

The network run by brothers and GOP donors Charles and David Koch then announced they had cancelled pro-Portman ads to the tune of \$2.1 million. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 31, 2016)

The Ohio Democratic Party and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) came to the former governor's defense Tuesday at a press conference blasting Sen. Portman for "turning his back" on the auto industry.

"It's the central contrast in this race: Ted is fighting for Ohio's working families, while Sen. Portman is pushing the agenda of his rich and powerful friends in Washington," Rep. Ryan said. "We need someone who represents our values. It's pretty simple - working families need Ted Strickland in the U.S. Senate."

Mr. Strickland did land the endorsement of the Sierra Club Tuesday, which in turn drew the ire of the Ohio Coal Association which released a statement criticizing Mr. Strickland's stance on coal.

Sen. Portman, meanwhile, enlisted the help of famed golfer Jack Nicklaus with a new ad that is part of a \$15 million ad campaign that has already begun to air.

"Rob is the real deal, he's making a difference in standing up for American manufacturing, and he's fighting to strengthen our military to keep us safe. Rob Portman is Ohio's champion," Mr. Nicklaus says in the ad.

The Portman campaign used the Ohio State University football opener Saturday and a related Snapchat filter to expand its outreach to students and fans.

"We are proud to work with our impressive Students for Portman group, which is organized on more than 30 campuses and has helped us contact more than 3.5 million targeted voters," Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "The coalition is helping ensure Rob's message of pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs reaches students across Ohio during this campaign."

From Congress: Brown, Portman Praise Trade Ruling On Steel; Kaptur Welcomes \$2M In Housing Funds; Latta Tours OSU Radio Optics Lab...

Ohio's U.S. senators praised a recent International Trade Commission finding that the country's steel industry has been hurt by cold-rolled steel imports from other countries.

The ITC determined imports from Brazil, India, South Korea and the United Kingdom have all played a role in harming the industry, but stopped short of listing Russia as having engaged in unfair trade practices.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) both welcomed the ITC's determination, with Sen. Portman in a statement calling the situation facing Ohio's steelworkers a "crisis."

"Nearly 1,500 Ohio steelworkers were laid off last year through no fault of their own," Sen. Portman said. "Today the ITC recognized exactly what I told them: that unfair, dishonest practices from competitors in these countries are hurting our communities. Our work is far from over, but today's ruling is another step in leveling the playing field, and it is another win for Ohio steelworkers."

Sen. Brown said unfair trade practices are threatening the stability of that and other industries. He had previously advocated that Russia be included in the ITC investigation.

"When other countries don't play by the rules, the U.S. government must take action to protect American manufacturers," Sen. Brown said. "It's disappointing that the ITC did not recognize Russia's unfair trade practices, but the enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duties on cold-rolled steel imports from Brazil, India, South Korea, and the United Kingdom is a good step forward in providing the steel industry with the relief it needs."

In other trade news, Sen. Portman last week criticized the European Union's ruling that Apple owes \$14 billion in back taxes, saying the ruling highlights the need for international tax reform.

"Retroactive taxes not based in the rule of law are an attack on all U.S. companies doing business globally," the senator said. "The Commission is blatantly attempting to take advantage of the antiquated U.S. international tax system, and at the end of the day, it's

U.S. taxpayers footing the bill. This decision is another indicator of the urgent need for international tax reform."

Housing: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded the recent award of more than \$2.1 million toward Cuyahoga County homeless veteran support.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the award to Cleveland-based Frontline Service to support "Operation Cleveland Home Front," a program that provides transitional housing to veterans and their families.

"No one who has served our country with dignity and honor should face the indignity of being without adequate shelter," Rep. Kaptur said, adding that the program "offers veterans and their families a helping hand through transitional, temporary housing, a chance that offers hope and the prospects of a second chance to make a better life for themselves and their families. These brave men and women served our country, and this support program is our service in return."

Technology: U.S. Rep. Bob Latta (R-Bowling Green) praised Ohio State University's ElectroScience Lab during a recent tour of the facility. The lab is one of the largest radio frequency optics research laboratories in the world.

"The work they are doing at the ElectroScience Lab is pushing the limits in advancing technology," Rep. Latta said. "The research that is being conducted will pay countless dividends in the wireless communication and radio frequency fields."

Piketon: Sens. Brown and Portman continue their efforts to secure funding for the ongoing cleanup of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

The two earlier this month asked Senate appropriators to include funding for the project in any short-term continuing resolution considered by the upper chamber. Continued funding for the effort, they said, is in jeopardy because the 2017 Energy and Water Appropriations bill passed by the Senate, which includes the funding, has not yet received House action.

"Portsmouth's D&D efforts are an integral part of the Department of Energy's commitment to the people of southern Ohio," the pair wrote to the Senate Appropriations Committee. "Continued operations at the present level are an essential part of that commitment."

Backpage: Sen. Portman chalked up another victory in lawmakers' ongoing legal proceedings against Backpage.com.

Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) as leaders of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations have long been focused on an uncooperative Backpage in their attempt to determine the website's role in facilitating sex trafficking.

In the latest development, the D.C. Circuit Court denied Backpage's request for a stay, meaning the company must now turn over all documents that have been subpoenaed to the committee within 10 days.

"Today's ruling is a major step forward in our efforts to stop the scourge of online human trafficking and stand up for its thousands of innocent victims across the United States," Sen. Portman said. "With this decision, we look forward to examining the subpoenaed documents that Backpage has withheld. We are committed to continuing our bipartisan investigation and ensuring that our laws effectively protect the most vulnerable from sex traffickers and businesses that aid them."

Coal: Sen. Brown welcomed more than \$1 million in federal relief funding to Ohio miners and their families that have experienced layoffs.

The Department of Labor announced the funding to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services this month to fund reemployment efforts for those workers. The award brings Ohio's total federal funding to \$2 million, including a \$916,250 grant from 2015.

"The changing coal economy has put some workers out of a job through no fault of their own," Sen. Brown said. "This grant will give Ohio the tools to continue its support for displaced workers and help them get back on their feet."

Drugs: Sen. Portman joined Walgreens workers as they unveiled 18 drug take-back kiosks for their Ohio stores.

In a Toledo press conference, the lawmaker voiced his support for the effort announced in February, which will culminate in the kiosks being placed in 500 of the chain's stores across the country.

"Addiction to prescription painkillers has reached epidemic levels in Ohio and across the country," Sen. Portman said. "Fighting back against this epidemic will require all of us working together at the federal, state, and local community level."

Women's Summit: Sen. Brown announced the second annual Women's Leadership Summit will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Global Center for Health Innovation in Cleveland. For more information and a list of speakers visit the event's website.

"Ohio women are achieving remarkable things, and we must build on their success so all women can have an opportunity to succeed," Sen. Brown said. "The Women's Leadership Summit aims to celebrate the accomplishments of women and highlight strategies for overcoming obstacles to success."

Court Briefs: Court Rules Meigs County Charter Proposal Should Move Forward; Man Injured At Basketball Game Loses Case; Attorneys Reprimanded...

Voters in Meigs County could soon have the opportunity to change their form of government.

The Ohio Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the county's board of commissioners erred by not approving a resolution to place a charter amendment on the ballot in 2015.

The 4-3 per curiam decision reverses a Fourth District Court of Appeals ruling.

The commissioners received a letter from the board of elections on July 2, 2015 stating that a petition filed by Meigs County Home Rule Committee had a sufficient number of valid signatures to be placed on the November ballot, the court reported.

However, the commissioners in a July 9 letter back to the board said the July 2 letter was incomplete and lacked certain information. In a special meeting on July 14, the commissioners failed to certify the issue for the ballot because they said the board of elections failed to meet the deadline to submit a report at least 120 days prior to the election.

"But even if the first letter were insufficient, when the board of elections ultimately certifies the validity of a petition and the delay was not the fault of the initiative's supporters, a writ of mandamus will issue to place the matter on the ballot. Any other result would be unfair and thwart the constitutional right of initiative," the court wrote in its decision.

Citing a 2015 case in which Secretary of State Jon Husted invalidated a county charter initiative on the grounds that the proponents did not propose a form of county government, the commissioners argued that committee also failed to propose a form of county government.

However, the court found that is a determination for Secretary Husted to make.

"We will not intrude into the process before the secretary has had a chance to exercise his discretion," the majority wrote.

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and Justices Judith Ann Lanzinger, Judith French and Bill O'Neill constituted the majority.

Justices Paul Pfeiffer and Sharon Kennedy joined a dissenting opinion in which Justice Terrence O'Donnell sided with the appellate court.

Injury: A man who was injured as he attempted to sit in a seat that broke and dropped to the ground at a University of Akron basketball game will receive no financial compensation, the Court of Claims ruled.

The court found that Raymond Williams failed to prove that the university did not exercise ordinary or reasonable care and denied his claim for \$10,000 in damages.

Mr. Williams claimed the fall resulted in more than \$5,000 in medical bills, the Ohio Supreme Court reported.

However, a university investigation found that Mr. Williams told a responding usher and supervisor that he did not fall because he caught himself as the chair broke and that he declined medical attention at the time.

Reprimands: The Ohio Supreme Court has issued three public reprimands:

- Justin E. Fernandez of Cincinnati for allegedly neglecting a client's legal matter and the improper use of an out-of-state company to provide paralegal and paraprofessional services.
- Steven B. Beranek of Medina for allegedly failing to inform his clients that he did not have professional liability coverage.
- Patrick L. Clifton of Crestview Hills, Kentucky for allegedly violating the rule that prohibits a lawyer from knowingly making a false statement to a tribunal and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Conviction: The Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced the conviction of a man a Toledo man who used a fake identity to collect benefits.

David Abitua, 51, pleaded guilty Aug. 18 in Franklin County Common Pleas Court to one fifth-degree felony count of workers' compensation fraud, according to BWC.

"If you try to cheat the workers' compensation system, even while hiding under a false identity, we will find you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law," Sarah Morrison, Administrator/CEO for the BWC, said in a statement. "Workers' compensation fraud raises costs for everyone in the system and diverts resources needed for injured workers and making Ohio workplaces safer."

Using a false Social Security number and the alias of Jose L. Vasquez, Mr. Abitua collected injured workers' benefits from November 2009 until October 2012.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, September 8

Broadcast Educational Media Commission, 2470 North Star Road, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Children's Trust Fund, 77 South High Street, 13th Floor East Conference Room, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, September 7

House Democrats legislative agenda news conference, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

**Release of August casino revenue figures, 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 11**

**Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) fundraiser, Echo Ridge Farm, 4674 Hominy Ridge Rd.,
Springfield, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Partner: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Kyle
Koehler)**

Thursday, September 29

**Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Keller residence, 8325 Princeton Road, Liberty Twp.,
6 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Chair | \$250 Event Sponsor | \$100 Individual to Friends
of Bill Coley)**

Monday, October 10

**Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, K-12 Gallery and TEJAS, 341 S Jefferson St.,
Dayton, 5 p.m., (Special Guest: Sen. Obhof. \$2,500 Michelangelo Sponsor | \$1,000 Van Gogh
Sponsor | \$500 Picasso Sponsor | \$150 per Couple | \$100 per Individual to Citizens for Lehner)**

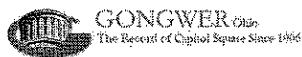
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To: DL_Gongwer
Subject: Ohio Report, Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Attachments: Sep6House.htm; 160906dayplan.htm; Sep6.htm



Ohio Report for Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Stakeholder Group Reconvenes To Recommend Sponsor Evaluation Updates

House District 16: Cuyahoga Councilman Faces Democratic Operative In Battle For Baker Seat

Buckeye Institute Calls For More Union Decertification Votes, Policy Matters Ohio Urges Lawmakers To Promote Unionization

State Board Looking To Help 2,000 Displaced Ohio ITT Students

Ohio Sees Drop In Obesity Rate, But Trends Show Continued Rise In Diabetes, Hypertension, Report Says

Trump, Clinton Spend Holiday Campaigning In Ohio

Democratic PAC Cancels \$3M More In Strickland Ads; Nicklaus Backs Portman

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Court Briefs: Court Rules Meigs County Charter Proposal Should Move Forward; Man Injured At Basketball Game Loses Case; Attorneys Reprimanded...

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Calendars

Day Planner

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House Activity for Tuesday, September 6, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 594 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roechner, K.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding of recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

State Audit Committee: Ranjan Manoranjan

Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board: Rep. Boggs

Task Force for Creating Opportunities for Shared Governance on Co-Located Campuses:
Representative Schuring; Dr. Para M. Jones and Natasha Pollock

Insurance Committee: Appoint Rep. Brinkman as chair

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, September 7

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.

Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Real Estate Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9 a.m. (Agriculture Development Committee)

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, 50 West Broad Street - Suite 1500, Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Personnel Board of Review, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, County Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$1,000 Total Contribution. Golfers pay for their own golf. Please make separate checks for \$500 each payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle & Peterson for Good Government)

House Democrats legislative agenda news conference, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) and Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 65 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan and/or Citizens for McColley)

Release of August casino revenue figures, 1:30 p.m.

Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Victory's, 543 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,500, Patron: \$1,000 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

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Volume #85, Report #172 -- Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Stakeholder Group Reconvenes To Recommend Sponsor Evaluation Updates

A group of charter school sponsors who previously worked to update the process by which they are evaluated has reunited to offer new recommendations as the Ohio Department of Education heads back to the drawing board.

Sponsors have been raising concerns about a change in evaluation practices since they were introduced last year, but the time is ripe for them to step in and make their voices heard following the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review's shelving of a rule dealing with the compliance portion of the reviews.

St. Aloysius representative Dave Cash said he recently reconvened a stakeholder group that had been defunct for the past three years, hoping that JCARR's decision could provide an opportunity for members to provide feedback and offer suggestions on the evaluations.

JCARR leaders have since said they expect the ODE to present an updated rule and the Common Sense Initiative has asked the agency to collect additional public comments.

"We anticipated JCARR would send the rule back and get stakeholder feedback that they did not get the first time. Who better to try to provide some of that stakeholder input than the ones who were involved in the evaluation to begin with?" Mr. Cash said in an interview.

"We've put a significant amount of resources into trying to put an evaluation tool together that was then not finished out and then not implemented well and it all fell apart. We felt it was our obligation to try to step up and offer recommendations to fix it."

The group, which includes representatives from the Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers, Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Reynoldsburg City Schools, and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, originally began meeting in 2012.

At that time, members - who were also joined by representatives of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and ODE employees - spent a year and a half crafting a process to measure sponsor compliance and piloting it throughout the state.

Their recommendations on compliance became part of the previous sponsor evaluation that was never fully implemented and was ultimately revamped because it came to light that sponsor ratings were miscalculated by then-Office of School Choice Director David Hansen.

Sticking with some of the same premises as the last time they were active, the group is also taking into consideration new laws as it drafts updated recommendations, some of which have already been presented to CSI and ODE, Mr. Cash said.

Earlier this week, the group created a process and timeline for the compliance portion of the evaluation. It would require the validation of just 10% of the items on the compliance list, but those items would be selected at random.

The group has also suggested that a number of items be removed from the list, the OCQE's Beth Lear said. Of the 319 items schools were required to verify compliance with, the group found that 15 were not required under law, 12 required sponsors to confirm a negative and 78 were documents to which ODE already has access.

Their recommendations were submitted the same day Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria sent the State Board of Education a memo stating that the agency would revert back to the current rule for the compliance portion of the reviews and continuing working on the new proposal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 1, 2016)

Under those compliance guidelines, ODE would examine whether all rules and laws are being met at just 10% of sponsors' schools as opposed to all of them.

Mr. Cash said that system isn't preferable because sponsors only have to certify that a number of the compliance items are being met.

Allowing sponsors to verify information without a system in place to check for validity puts the state back in the same position it was in when it asked the stakeholder group to make recommendations for a new evaluation process in 2012, he said.

"We wanted to make sure who was performing well and who was not performing well. We wanted tools so we could show we were doing the work we said we were doing," he said, adding that the previous evaluation system simply required sponsors to tell the agency whether they were meeting standards or not.

Mr. Cash said ODE has not responded to the new recommendations or voiced interest in rejoining the conversation.

"They've got to be a partner with us in this work," Mr. Cash said. "They're responsible for the Ohio system of public education and there are 400 charter schools and 120,000 students (that attend them) - that's a significant portion of Ohio's public education system and we need ODE to be partner with us on that so we can keep doing good work."

Ms. Lear said it's also important for ODE to work with sponsors on evaluation system updates because the agency also sponsors a number of charter schools.

"It doesn't really look good for one sponsor to be setting the rules for all sponsors," she said in an interview.

ODE's Brittany Halpin said, "We've received the letter and we always appreciate the input of our stakeholders."

Up next, the group said it plans to offer suggestions for changing the quality and compliance portions of the evaluations following a Sept. 12 meeting.

Mr. Cash said the latest academic portion of the review is concerning because it's centered on report card scores of schools in sponsors' portfolios, despite the fact that sponsors do not have the ability to make curriculum decisions or choose school teachers and leaders.

"All I can do as a sponsor is say, 'You promised you were going to have a school that was going to perform at this level and so far you're not getting there.' I don't have the ability to go ahead make a direct impact on their performance," he said.

House District 16: Cuyahoga Councilman Faces Democratic Operative In Battle For Baker Seat

The race to replace term-limited Rep. Nan Baker (R-Westlake) for a seat in suburban Cleveland pits a Republican veteran of local government against a young native of the area with experience working in state and national politics.

Republican nominee Dave Greenspan, 51, of Westlake, is a member of Cuyahoga County Council who moved to Ohio in 2007 from the Atlanta area. He faces Democrat Tommy Greene, 28, a Bay Village native who is the son of a steelworker and a teacher's aide.

Neither candidate faced a primary challenge in the district, which leans Republican.

Mr. Greenspan touted his experience in local government and his ability to work across the aisle. A native of New Jersey who's lived in a number of states and attended Troy University in Alabama, he served on the inaugural city council in Sandy Springs, Ga., when the city was incorporated in 2005. After moving to the Cleveland area in 2007, he was elected to the first Cuyahoga County Council in 2010.

He immediately focused on ethics, chairing the council's ethics committee, he said.

"Coming into a new government, especially one coming out of such deep-rooted corruption, I felt it was very important that the residents and businesses of Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio knew that their government was going to be working for them," he said in an interview.

The married father of three doesn't just start up local governments. He has an accounting degree and has spent much of his career as a chief financial officer for a number of companies, mostly startup ventures. He's also been the chief operating officer for the PGA Tour radio network.

He now runs a small business, Green Elk Consulting Services, which provides financial and other advice to startup and turnaround businesses.

Mr. Greene is a graduate of Ohio University who has worked for Equality Ohio and interned for Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon). He now works in business development for North Water Partners, a company in the Ohio City area of Cleveland.

The Democrat grew up in Westlake and Bay Village. He said part of the reason he became interested in politics was because his father lost his job when the steel mill where he worked closed in 2001. Following that, his father took him to a rally that included Sen. Brown and former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

"That's when I realized that when families are going through a hard time, they turn to their elected officials not for a handout or for them to answer all of their problems, but to be standing with them when things are going wrong and to be able to provide solutions to make the families a little bit stronger in the future," Mr. Greene said in an interview.

Families, through jobs and education policy, will be a focus for Mr. Greene.

"I kind of view my role as being able to strengthen Ohio's families," he said. "There's a handful of ways we can do that," including more oversight of charter schools. Education funding, particularly for public schools, will be a priority, he said.

He also said he wanted to see more infrastructure development, including pushes for Ohio to develop more clean energy products. Toledo could build more solar panels, for example, he said.

"We have a proud manufacturing history and Ohio has to be a place where we build things," he said. "We can't just be a 100% service sector economy. We have to be a manufacturing state in Ohio."

Mr. Greenspan said he has focused on a wide variety of issues during his time in public office, and believes a comprehensive approach is important. Education and drug problems are both tied to jobs.

A priority for the state, he said, is to develop a workforce of people who are able to do jobs and pass drug tests.

"We have to continue to develop what I refer to as a competent workforce. I think we all can agree that the state is continuing to move the needle in a positive direction toward workforce development," he said, but the work needs to continue.

He said he wants to see a "holistic, total" approach to the economy, one that includes focusing on education to produce good workers, luring in a wide variety of industries, and matching qualified workers with open positions.

"If you look at it in its totality, if you look at it as one big direction to move our state, it's my belief that all of those issues move us in a positive direction," he said.

"Unless you've lived this, unless you've served at the city level, unless you've served at the county level, it's hard to understand how these issues come together," he said.

Mr. Greene, who is openly gay, said nondiscrimination is also an economic development issue. When he worked for Equality Ohio, he said, one of his duties was to talk to executives about the need for nondiscrimination laws in order to recruit talented workers from other parts of the country.

"If Ohio is going to be open for business, we need to be open for talent," he said.

Mr. Greene said his campaign team has been organized and working in the community to spread his message.

"I'm out there every day talking to voters about how we're going to move our state forward," he said.

"I believe regular working families need an advocate in Columbus," he added.

Mr. Greenspan said he believes his experience as an elected official - particularly in a county council district that spans the same cities as the legislative district - sets him apart. He said he is also stressing his willingness to work across the aisle to get things done.

"We have to be able to all work together, collectively, to create the environment in our state to move in the right direction," he said.

His campaign has knocked on more than 27,000 doors already, he said.

"I've represented this district for nearly six years. I believe that I understand the opportunities and the challenges of the district," he said.

Buckeye Institute Calls For More Union Decertification Votes, Policy Matters Ohio Urges Lawmakers To Promote Unionization

In the wake of the Labor Day holiday, two groups offered competing visions on how to improve the lives of working Ohioans.

In a report released by the Buckeye Institute, the group proposed that Ohio lawmakers make it easier for state and local government employees to decertify their unions. Policy Matters Ohio, meanwhile, released a report calling for lawmakers to make it easier to join and form unions.

According to the Buckeye Institute's report, "One Man, One Vote, One Time? Re-election Votes Hold Unions Accountable to Their Members," there are more than 3,100 bargaining units covering about 300,000 state and local government employees across Ohio. However, most of those employees have had no say in their representation, it said.

"Ohio makes it very difficult for workers to have a voice in their unions," Robert Alt, Buckeye's president and CEO, said in a statement. "Under current law, the ability for union workers to hold an election is far more cumbersome than how we conduct our elections for public officials. And elections keep people accountable."

In the past three years, just 14 validly submitted decertification petitions have been submitted to the Employment Relations Board. Unions prevailed in three of those re-election efforts, the report found.

The report, however, said the decertification process is a cumbersome one, providing a 30-day window in which 50% of government employees in a bargaining unit need to sign a petition to trigger a vote.

"Just as voters hold their public officials accountable so, too, should workers be able to call for better representation," Rea Hederman Jr., executive vice president of The Buckeye Institute, said. "Ohio should follow the lead of other states by requiring their government unions to regularly stand for re-election, which will only improve their responsiveness to member needs."

The report goes on to list several complaints unionized employees have with their bargaining units, including dues spent on political activities, leaders' salaries and "insufficient" leadership elections.

"Union members should have the freedom to regularly decide whether to remain unionized. Such re-election votes would make unions more accountable to their members," the report concludes. "They would force union leaders to serve their members' interests instead of pursuing their own priorities. Workers deserve the ability to hold their union regularly accountable. Meaningful representation does not mean one man, one vote, one time."

But in its report, "Still struggling: State of Working Ohio 2016," Policy Matters Ohio says lawmakers should be promoting unionization.

Unionized workers in Ohio made about \$4 more per hour than their non-unionized counterparts in 2015, according to the report.

"Unions improve wages but Ohio's legislators and governor have often taken steps to weaken unions and reduce the number of workers who can get the protection, training and compensation benefits that come with being a member of a labor union. In order to broaden unionization in Ohio, the state should reject the misnamed 'right-to-work' initiative - states that take this approach end up with lower wages," the report reads

"Ohio should also allow home health workers and childcare workers to become part of a union - two particularly important and low-wage occupations that were once promised the right to organize into unions. For both groups, Gov. Kasich has eliminated the right to join a union and bargain collectively."

The report goes on to state that unions can reduce inequality for black and female workers. It found that black unionized workers make \$4.31 more per hour than their non-unionized counterparts while women in unions make \$3.91 more per hour.

"Ensuring that more workers can join unions will better spread the benefits of unionization," the report states.

State Board Looking To Help 2,000 Displaced Ohio ITT Students

ITT Technical Institute's parent company announced Tuesday it is pulling the plug on its 137 campuses across the country, officially displacing about 2,000 Ohio students and an unknown number of employees.

Left to help fill in the gap is the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, which is stepping in to ensure displaced students aren't left behind by the closure of the Indiana-based company that served nearly 45,000 students in 38 states.

"This is going to be a difficult process I'm sure, but we'll continue to work with the students," Board Executive Director John Ware said in an interview.

The closure had been expected ever since the federal government late last month unveiled an array of penalties, including banning the school from enrolling students with federal financial aid, after the school was found to be out of compliance with accreditation criteria.

The company on Tuesday confirmed that after assessing its options, the sanctions were deemed a death knell.

"It is with profound regret that we must report that ITT Educational Services, Inc. will discontinue academic operations at all of its ITT Technical Institutes permanently after approximately 50 years of continuous service," the company announced in a press release.

"With what we believe is a complete disregard by the U.S. Department of Education for due process to the company, hundreds of thousands of current students and alumni and more than 8,000 employees will be negatively affected."

As of Tuesday, the company had already eliminated the "overwhelming majority" of its employees and said remaining staff members are prioritizing helping displaced students determine their options.

The state board has been working on contingency plans for the students enrolled at ITT's nine Ohio campuses since the August penalties were announced, Mr. Ware said. The fact that those campuses are spread out across all corners of the state poses a particular challenge, he added.

He said the board has been working to enlist other schools for teach-out agreements in which case the school would agree to accept displaced students' ITT credits and any related financial aid. The board will be emailing a list of those schools to students this week, he said.

"Sometimes it depends on how far along in their program they are and what program they are in so we'll have to figure that out for each student - what they need to do," he said.

Alternately, he said, the board will work to connect students unable to continue their program elsewhere with the U.S. Department of Education where they could receive a loan discharge.

"We'll work with ITT to make sure students have access to their transcripts and records and anything like that the students would need going forward," Mr. Ware said. "We've already had communication about this and I know ITT was going to send an email with some of this information out to their students sometime today."

ITT's closure is the latest result of a crackdown of the federal government on for-profit colleges, although Mr. Ware said most previous closures "have been more orderly than this."

"It's been a painful process," he said.

Among the penalties levied against ITT was a requirement the company increase its existing surety from \$94 million to more than \$240 million - or 40% of all Title IV aid the school received in 2015 payable in full. The company pointed to that stipulation specifically as to why it is unable to continue operations.

"We believe the government's action was inappropriate and unconstitutional, however, with the ITT Technical Institutes ceasing operations, it will now likely rest on other parties to understand these reprehensible actions and to take action to attempt to prevent this from happening again," the company said.

In a message to ITT students, U.S. Education Secretary John King acknowledged the news will have a "deeply personal" impact on affected students and, vowing to support students as they work through their options, encouraged students to not give up on their education.

Ohio Sees Drop In Obesity Rate, But Trends Show Continued Rise In Diabetes, Hypertension, Report Says

Ohio was one of four states that saw its obesity rate fall in 2015, according to a report from the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Buckeye State ranked 26th in the U.S. with an adult obesity rate of 29.8%. That's down from 32.6% a year earlier.

Although Ohio saw a drop year-over-year, the rate was still well above what it was a decade earlier, when 24.9% of Ohio adults suffered from obesity, according to the report. In 1995, the rate was 16.1%.

The drop in Ohio and three other states - Minnesota, Montana and New York - was the first time in the last decade that any states experienced decreases except for Washington, D.C., in 2010.

Louisiana had the highest rate of obesity at 36.2%, while Colorado had the lowest at 20.2%.

Ohio had the 14th highest rate of obesity among children ages 10-17, at 17.4%, and was 35th in obesity for children ages 2-4 from low-income families, with 12.4%.

The report also cited a number of obesity-related health issues. Ohio was 17th in adult diabetes, with 11% of adults suffering from the disease. That number was down from a year before, but the overall trend remains upward - Ohio is expected to go from just over 1 million cases of diabetes in 2010 to nearly 1.6 million in 2030 at its current pace.

Even more Ohio adults suffer from hypertension. Ohio was 13th in that category, with 34.3% of adults having the condition. The number of cases is expected to rise from 2.3 million in 2010 to nearly 3.1 million in 2030 at its current pace.

Cases of heart disease and obesity-related cancer are both expected to rise dramatically over the next two decades, the report said, while arthritis cases are likely to decrease.

The State Health Assessment cited obesity among the chronic conditions that pose serious health risks to the state. That report cited links between obesity and other chronic conditions, and noted the racial and geographic disparities among them. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 22, 2016)

The SHA found obesity to be a problem cited by public health experts in all areas of the state and among a wide variety of different groups. The report cited nutrition and physical activity as possible contributing factors and opportunities for improvement.

"Although Ohio's high prevalence of obesity and diabetes indicate that much more progress is needed on physical activity, this assessment finds that Ohio has some strengths in this area," the SHA said. "First, the percent of Ohio adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity declined from 2013 to 2014 and met the Healthy People 2020 target. Second, regional forum participants in most areas of the state identified their active living environments as a characteristic that made them proud of their

community, and all regions identified a positive active living environment as one of the most important characteristics of a healthy county or region."

The Trust for America's Health report on obesity also found racial disparities in obesity. Among white Ohioans, the rate of obesity was 30.5%, while it was 37.1% among black Ohioans.

The gap was narrow between men and women, with 30.5% of men and 29.7% of women. For different age groups, it was wider, with the obesity rate among Ohioans 45-64 at 36.3%, compared to 29% for those 65 and older, 27.9% for those 26 to 44 and 17.8% for those 18-25.

Dana Schmersal, a spokeswoman for Voices for Ohio's Children, said policymakers should continue to work on programs to improve childhood nutrition.

"We are very glad to see the downward trend for childhood obesity rates in Ohio," she said in an email. "Child nutrition, however, remains a key issue across the state as both obesity and food insecurity impact far too many Ohio families, leaving our state to face the expensive cognitive, behavioral, educational, economic and health consequences that follow. Of course, it is not enough to make food more accessible and nutritious - we must work with schools, child care providers, and communities to ensure that meals are consistent with a healthier lifestyle supported by comprehensive health and physical education inside and outside of the classroom."

Trump, Clinton Spend Holiday Campaigning In Ohio

GOP nominee Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton ventured back to the Buckeye State Monday as they continued to court voters.

Ms. Clinton spoke at a Cleveland rally, where she and vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine stressed the importance of the state in the electoral landscape.

"You're used to this," Sen. Kaine told Ohio voters, saying the election has entered the "home stretch."

"You're used to the fact that you're one of the two or three most important states in any presidential election going back since there were presidential elections," he said.

In her remarks to the crowd, Ms. Clinton again questioned Mr. Trump's suitability for the office of president. She also touted a newly announced book, written by herself and Sen. Kaine, called "Stronger Together" that will showcase their plan for the future.

"We are stronger together, and that is in stark contrast to Donald Trump," she said. "When he says, 'I alone can fix it,' he doesn't understand how America works."

Mr. Trump that same day participated in a labor roundtable Monday at a Brook Park American Legion post. Media access was limited at the event, which was only first announced that morning.

"I was happy to show Mr. Trump first-hand some of the challenges that we have faced in Northeast Ohio, with local plants shutting down and jobs leaving for overseas," Brook Park Mayor Tom Coyne said in a statement released by the campaign. "Mr. Trump speaks our language, I think he's more comfortable talking to labor and working class people than he is talking to bankers, and it shows."

Mr. Trump then attended the Canfield Fair, while at the same time Clinton surrogates launched attacks seeking to undermine Mr. Trump's attempt to draw blue-collar support.

"Hillary Clinton knows that America is already great because of your hard work, because of your values, your integrity," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka told those at the fair. "She knows that our economy is strongest when we can band together and negotiate for better wages, better benefits and better working conditions. She wants to rewrite the rules of the economy so that working people win and not just billionaires, like Donald Trump, win."

The Clinton campaign on Tuesday evening is scheduled to open its latest organizing office, this one in Delaware County. The campaign has launched more than three dozen such offices across the state.

Mr. Trump, meanwhile, rated two points above Ms. Clinton in a Tuesday national poll from CNN/ORC. Mr. Trump earned 45% to Ms. Clinton's 43%, putting the pair at a statistical tie when accounting for the margin of error.

Libertarian Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein earned 7% and 2% respectively in that survey.

Democratic PAC Cancels \$3M More In Strickland Ads; Nicklaus Backs Portman

A national super PAC has canceled \$3 million worth of additional ads it planned to air supporting U.S. Senate candidate Ted Strickland.

The Senate Majority PAC announced the additional cuts Tuesday - the second such reduction the group has made in the last month. A spokesman said the group was seeking to "maximize resources."

The group had already scrapped ads set for later this month. But the additional cuts for ads previously set to air between Sept. 20-Oct. 10 mean the PAC will have no pro-Strickland advertising on Ohio airwaves until October at the earliest.

Strickland campaign spokesman David Bergstein in a statement downplayed the move, which is seen as the latest sign of Mr. Strickland losing ground to his opponent U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, saying "there's still a lot of race left to run."

"We just recently launched our paid media campaign, the national environment is rapidly deteriorating around Portman, he's facing a daily firestorm about his continued support for Trump - and Portman's small, weak field operation can't compete with the Ohio Democratic Party's coordinated field campaign which has hundreds of organizers and volunteers across the state working to elect Ted, Secretary Clinton and Democrats at every level," Mr. Bergstein said.

"Ted's going to do what he does best: campaign vigorously across Ohio, talking about the central contrast in this race - he's fighting for working people because that's where he comes from and that's who he cares about, while Senator Portman is looking out for his rich and powerful friends," he continued.

The PAC had already cancelled about \$191,000 worth of ads previously intended to run between Sept. 6-19. At the same time, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee announced it was pushing back the launch of its own ads by one week, cancelling about \$500,000 in reserved airtime in September and moving that money to support the campaign's own advertising. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 30, 2016)

The network run by brothers and GOP donors Charles and David Koch then announced they had cancelled pro-Portman ads to the tune of \$2.1 million. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 31, 2016)

The Ohio Democratic Party and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) came to the former governor's defense Tuesday at a press conference blasting Sen. Portman for "turning his back" on the auto industry.

"It's the central contrast in this race: Ted is fighting for Ohio's working families, while Sen. Portman is pushing the agenda of his rich and powerful friends in Washington," Rep. Ryan said. "We need someone who represents our values. It's pretty simple - working families need Ted Strickland in the U.S. Senate."

Mr. Strickland did land the endorsement of the Sierra Club Tuesday, which in turn drew the ire of the Ohio Coal Association which released a statement criticizing Mr. Strickland's stance on coal.

Sen. Portman, meanwhile, enlisted the help of famed golfer Jack Nicklaus with a new ad that is part of a \$15 million ad campaign that has already begun to air.

"Rob is the real deal, he's making a difference in standing up for American manufacturing, and he's fighting to strengthen our military to keep us safe. Rob Portman is Ohio's champion," Mr. Nicklaus says in the ad.

The Portman campaign used the Ohio State University football opener Saturday and a related Snapchat filter to expand its outreach to students and fans.

"We are proud to work with our impressive Students for Portman group, which is organized on more than 30 campuses and has helped us contact more than 3.5 million targeted voters," Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "The coalition is helping ensure Rob's message of pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs reaches students across Ohio during this campaign."

From Congress: Brown, Portman Praise Trade Ruling On Steel; Kaptur Welcomes \$2M In Housing Funds; Latta Tours OSU Radio Optics Lab...

Ohio's U.S. senators praised a recent International Trade Commission finding that the country's steel industry has been hurt by cold-rolled steel imports from other countries.

The ITC determined imports from Brazil, India, South Korea and the United Kingdom have all played a role in harming the industry, but stopped short of listing Russia as having engaged in unfair trade practices.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) both welcomed the ITC's determination, with Sen. Portman in a statement calling the situation facing Ohio's steelworkers a "crisis."

"Nearly 1,500 Ohio steelworkers were laid off last year through no fault of their own," Sen. Portman said. "Today the ITC recognized exactly what I told them: that unfair, dishonest practices from competitors in these countries are hurting our communities. Our work is far from over, but today's ruling is another step in leveling the playing field, and it is another win for Ohio steelworkers."

Sen. Brown said unfair trade practices are threatening the stability of that and other industries. He had previously advocated that Russia be included in the ITC investigation.

"When other countries don't play by the rules, the U.S. government must take action to protect American manufacturers," Sen. Brown said. "It's disappointing that the ITC did not recognize Russia's unfair trade practices, but the enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duties on cold-rolled steel imports from Brazil, India, South Korea, and the United Kingdom is a good step forward in providing the steel industry with the relief it needs."

In other trade news, Sen. Portman last week criticized the European Union's ruling that Apple owes \$14 billion in back taxes, saying the ruling highlights the need for international tax reform.

"Retroactive taxes not based in the rule of law are an attack on all U.S. companies doing business globally," the senator said. "The Commission is blatantly attempting to take advantage of the antiquated U.S. international tax system, and at the end of the day, it's

U.S. taxpayers footing the bill. This decision is another indicator of the urgent need for international tax reform."

Housing: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded the recent award of more than \$2.1 million toward Cuyahoga County homeless veteran support.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the award to Cleveland-based Frontline Service to support "Operation Cleveland Home Front," a program that provides transitional housing to veterans and their families.

"No one who has served our country with dignity and honor should face the indignity of being without adequate shelter," Rep. Kaptur said, adding that the program "offers veterans and their families a helping hand through transitional, temporary housing, a chance that offers hope and the prospects of a second chance to make a better life for themselves and their families. These brave men and women served our country, and this support program is our service in return."

Technology: U.S. Rep. Bob Latta (R-Bowling Green) praised Ohio State University's ElectroScience Lab during a recent tour of the facility. The lab is one of the largest radio frequency optics research laboratories in the world.

"The work they are doing at the ElectroScience Lab is pushing the limits in advancing technology," Rep. Latta said. "The research that is being conducted will pay countless dividends in the wireless communication and radio frequency fields."

Piketon: Sens. Brown and Portman continue their efforts to secure funding for the ongoing cleanup of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

The two earlier this month asked Senate appropriators to include funding for the project in any short-term continuing resolution considered by the upper chamber. Continued funding for the effort, they said, is in jeopardy because the 2017 Energy and Water Appropriations bill passed by the Senate, which includes the funding, has not yet received House action.

"Portsmouth's D&D efforts are an integral part of the Department of Energy's commitment to the people of southern Ohio," the pair wrote to the Senate Appropriations Committee. "Continued operations at the present level are an essential part of that commitment."

Backpage: Sen. Portman chalked up another victory in lawmakers' ongoing legal proceedings against Backpage.com.

Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) as leaders of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations have long been focused on an uncooperative Backpage in their attempt to determine the website's role in facilitating sex trafficking.

In the latest development, the D.C. Circuit Court denied Backpage's request for a stay, meaning the company must now turn over all documents that have been subpoenaed to the committee within 10 days.

"Today's ruling is a major step forward in our efforts to stop the scourge of online human trafficking and stand up for its thousands of innocent victims across the United States," Sen. Portman said. "With this decision, we look forward to examining the subpoenaed documents that Backpage has withheld. We are committed to continuing our bipartisan investigation and ensuring that our laws effectively protect the most vulnerable from sex traffickers and businesses that aid them."

Coal: Sen. Brown welcomed more than \$1 million in federal relief funding to Ohio miners and their families that have experienced layoffs.

The Department of Labor announced the funding to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services this month to fund reemployment efforts for those workers. The award brings Ohio's total federal funding to \$2 million, including a \$916,250 grant from 2015.

"The changing coal economy has put some workers out of a job through no fault of their own," Sen. Brown said. "This grant will give Ohio the tools to continue its support for displaced workers and help them get back on their feet."

Drugs: Sen. Portman joined Walgreens workers as they unveiled 18 drug take-back kiosks for their Ohio stores.

In a Toledo press conference, the lawmaker voiced his support for the effort announced in February, which will culminate in the kiosks being placed in 500 of the chain's stores across the country.

"Addiction to prescription painkillers has reached epidemic levels in Ohio and across the country," Sen. Portman said. "Fighting back against this epidemic will require all of us working together at the federal, state, and local community level."

Women's Summit: Sen. Brown announced the second annual Women's Leadership Summit will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Global Center for Health Innovation in Cleveland. For more information and a list of speakers visit the event's website.

"Ohio women are achieving remarkable things, and we must build on their success so all women can have an opportunity to succeed," Sen. Brown said. "The Women's Leadership Summit aims to celebrate the accomplishments of women and highlight strategies for overcoming obstacles to success."

Court Briefs: Court Rules Meigs County Charter Proposal Should Move Forward; Man Injured At Basketball Game Loses Case; Attorneys Reprimanded...

Voters in Meigs County could soon have the opportunity to change their form of government.

The Ohio Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the county's board of commissioners erred by not approving a resolution to place a charter amendment on the ballot in 2015.

The 4-3 per curiam decision reverses a Fourth District Court of Appeals ruling.

The commissioners received a letter from the board of elections on July 2, 2015 stating that a petition filed by Meigs County Home Rule Committee had a sufficient number of valid signatures to be placed on the November ballot, the court reported.

However, the commissioners in a July 9 letter back to the board said the July 2 letter was incomplete and lacked certain information. In a special meeting on July 14, the commissioners failed to certify the issue for the ballot because they said the board of elections failed to meet the deadline to submit a report at least 120 days prior to the election.

"But even if the first letter were insufficient, when the board of elections ultimately certifies the validity of a petition and the delay was not the fault of the initiative's supporters, a writ of mandamus will issue to place the matter on the ballot. Any other result would be unfair and thwart the constitutional right of initiative," the court wrote in its decision.

Citing a 2015 case in which Secretary of State Jon Husted invalidated a county charter initiative on the grounds that the proponents did not propose a form of county government, the commissioners argued that committee also failed to propose a form of county government.

However, the court found that is a determination for Secretary Husted to make.

"We will not intrude into the process before the secretary has had a chance to exercise his discretion," the majority wrote.

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and Justices Judith Ann Lanzinger, Judith French and Bill O'Neill constituted the majority.

Justices Paul Pfeiffer and Sharon Kennedy joined a dissenting opinion in which Justice Terrence O'Donnell sided with the appellate court.

Injury: A man who was injured as he attempted to sit in a seat that broke and dropped to the ground at a University of Akron basketball game will receive no financial compensation, the Court of Claims ruled.

The court found that Raymond Williams failed to prove that the university did not exercise ordinary or reasonable care and denied his claim for \$10,000 in damages.

Mr. Williams claimed the fall resulted in more than \$5,000 in medical bills, the Ohio Supreme Court reported.

However, a university investigation found that Mr. Williams told a responding usher and supervisor that he did not fall because he caught himself as the chair broke and that he declined medical attention at the time.

Reprimands: The Ohio Supreme Court has issued three public reprimands:

- Justin E. Fernandez of Cincinnati for allegedly neglecting a client's legal matter and the improper use of an out-of-state company to provide paralegal and paraprofessional services.
- Steven B. Beranek of Medina for allegedly failing to inform his clients that he did not have professional liability coverage.
- Patrick L. Clifton of Crestview Hills, Kentucky for allegedly violating the rule that prohibits a lawyer from knowingly making a false statement to a tribunal and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Conviction: The Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced the conviction of a man a Toledo man who used a fake identity to collect benefits.

David Abitua, 51, pleaded guilty Aug. 18 in Franklin County Common Pleas Court to one fifth-degree felony count of workers' compensation fraud, according to BWC.

"If you try to cheat the workers' compensation system, even while hiding under a false identity, we will find you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law," Sarah Morrison, Administrator/CEO for the BWC, said in a statement. "Workers' compensation fraud raises costs for everyone in the system and diverts resources needed for injured workers and making Ohio workplaces safer."

Using a false Social Security number and the alias of Jose L. Vasquez, Mr. Abitua collected injured workers' benefits from November 2009 until October 2012.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, September 8

Broadcast Educational Media Commission, 2470 North Star Road, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Children's Trust Fund, 77 South High Street, 13th Floor East Conference Room, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, September 7

House Democrats legislative agenda news conference, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Release of August casino revenue figures, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 11

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) fundraiser, Echo Ridge Farm, 4674 Hominy Ridge Rd., Springfield, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Partner: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Kyle Koehler)

Thursday, September 29

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Keller residence, 8325 Princeton Road, Liberty Twp., 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Chair | \$250 Event Sponsor | \$100 Individual to Friends of Bill Coley)

Monday, October 10

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, K-12 Gallery and TEJAS, 341 S Jefferson St., Dayton, 5 p.m., (Special Guest: Sen. Obhof. \$2,500 Michelangelo Sponsor | \$1,000 Van Gogh Sponsor | \$500 Picasso Sponsor | \$150 per Couple | \$100 per Individual to Citizens for Lehner)

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From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 9:30 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra
Subject: FW: RELEASE: Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Pickaway County Checkbook on OhioCheckbook.com
Attachments: 2016-09-13 Pickaway County joins OhioCheckbook.com.jpg

Please post today at some point... thanks!

From: Merritt, Amanda [mailto:Amanda.Merritt@tos.ohio.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 9:25 AM



JOSH MANDEL
STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

To: Merritt, Amanda
Subject: RELEASE: Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Pickaway County Checkbook on OhioCheckbook.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Mandi Merritt
September 13,
2016
(614) 995-1783
****Photo Included*

Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Pickaway County Checkbook on OhioCheckbook.com

Momentum Grows for Statewide Government Transparency with Over 820 Local Government and School Districts Partnering with OhioCheckbook.com

CIRCLEVILLE— Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced on Tuesday the launch of Pickaway County’s online checkbook on OhioCheckbook.com. In December 2014, Treasurer Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com, which sets a new national standard for government transparency and for the first time in Ohio history puts all state spending information on the internet. OhioCheckbook.com recently earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for a second year in a row.

The Ohio Treasurer’s office was joined at the announcement by Pickaway County Commissioners Harold Henson, Brian Stewart and Jay Wippel, Auditor Melissa Betz, and State Representative Gary Scherer.

Pickaway County is the 23rd county in Ohio to post their spending on OhioCheckbook.com. Pickaway County’s online checkbook includes over 21,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$96 million of total spending over Fiscal Year 2015.

“I believe the people of Pickaway County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent, and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with my office to post the finances on OhioCheckbook.com,” said Treasurer Mandel. “By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable.”

“Pickaway County is proud to partner with Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel to post the county’s finances on OhioCheckbook.com at no cost to our taxpayers,” said County Commissioner President Harold Henson. “We believe the residents of Pickaway County deserve to have easy access to this information.”

“As an advocate for transparent government, I applaud the decision of the Pickaway County to disclose their finances on OhioCheckbook.com,” said State Representative Gary Scherer. “I encourage all government entities in our region to follow suit if they haven’t already done so.”

“I applaud Pickaway County for participating in OhioCheckbook.com,” said State Senator Bob Peterson. “It is important for taxpayers to see how their tax dollars are being spent in an easy and readily available way.”

“Transparency in the use of taxpayer dollars helps ensure accountability and encourages our officials to spend public funds in an efficient manner,” said State Senator Troy Balderson. “Today we applaud Pickaway County leaders for holding themselves to a higher standard by participating in Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel’s program.”

On April 7, 2015 Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

A large coalition of statewide and local government organizations have expressed support for OhioCheckbook.com and local government transparency, including:

- Ohio Municipal League
- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioner Association of Ohio
- County Auditor Association of Ohio
- Ohio Newspaper Association
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- Buckeye Institute
- Common Cause Ohio

OhioCheckbook.com was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, OhioCheckbook.com has received overwhelming support from newspapers and groups across the state and, as of September 12, 2016 there have been more than 618,000 total searches on the site.

OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$540 billion in spending over the past eight years, including more than 148 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- “Google-style” contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and,
- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

In March 2015, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) released their annual “Following the Money 2015” report and Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one transparency ranking in the country for providing online access to government spending data. Ohio was prominently featured in the report after climbing from 46th to 1st in spending transparency as a result of Treasurer Mandel’s release of OhioCheckbook.com. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio received a perfect score of 100 points this year – the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

In April 2016, U.S. PIRG announced that Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second consecutive year in a row. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio again received the highest perfect score of 100 points this year – marking the second time in two years Ohio received the highest possible score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

The Treasurer’s office is partnering with OpenGov, a leading Silicon Valley government technology company, to provide residents of Ohio the ability to view and search local government expenditures in a user-friendly, digital format. “Ohio is setting the standard for financial transparency on an unprecedented scale. We are excited to partner with the Treasurer’s office to bring world-class technology to communities large and small across the state,” said Zachary Bookman, CEO of OpenGov.

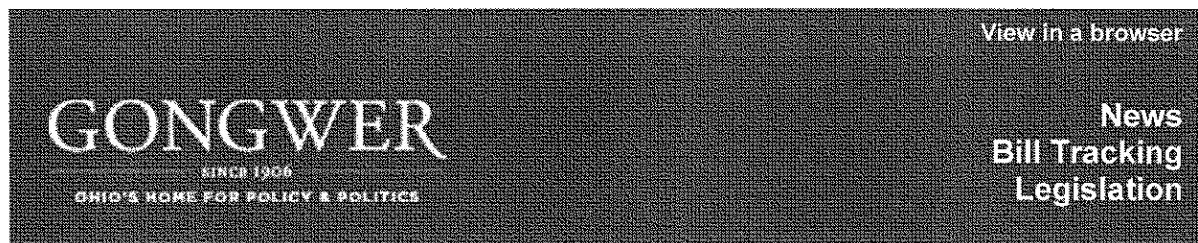
For more information or to view your local government website, visit the Local Government option on OhioCheckbook.com or click on PickawayCounty.OhioCheckbook.com.

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service
[gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 3:23 PM
To: Standard_Subscriber_misc_html@gongwer-oh.com
Subject: House Floor Report



HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HCR 38

CANCER CENTER (Conditt, M., Dever, J.)

To express support for the Proton Therapy Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and to urge that it be recognized by the National Cancer Institute as a Designated Cancer Center.

PASSED

SB 252

CARDIAC ARREST (Hite, C., Patton, T.)

With regard to sudden cardiac arrest in youth athletic activities.

86-4 (Brinkman, Dean, Hood & Vitale)

HB 533

AWARENESS MONTH (Sprague, R.)

To designate the month of May as